

The molecular basis of metabolic cycles and their relationship to circadian rhythms.

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Abstract

Metabolic cycles result from the partitioning of oxidative and reductive metabolism into rhythmic phases of gene expression and oscillating post-translational modifications to proteins. Relatively little is understood about how the switches in gene expression are controlled during a metabolic cycle, although recent studies have suggested a central role for transcription itself, via extensive transcriptional interference involving non-coding transcription, in rhythmically switching genes on and off. This review explores the molecular basis of the metabolic and gene expression oscillations in the yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and how they relate to other biological time keeping mechanisms such as circadian rhythms.

Introduction

Biological oscillations, with frequencies ranging from milliseconds to years, play critical roles in the organisation of cellular physiology in virtually every organism, although their origins and regulation are not fully understood. The frequency of biological oscillations is determined by ultradian or time-keeping strategies that function in distinct but interconnected ways (Fig. 1).

First, there needs to be a clock to maintain actual time keeping, which is generally believed to be a biochemical oscillator. Good candidates are the non-transcriptional oscillators (NTOs), proteins that are regulated at the level of post-translational modifications, such as phosphorylation in cyanobacteria¹ or oxidation-reduction (redox) cycles at cysteine residues of peroxiredoxins (PRXs), universally conserved from archaea to yeast to mammals^{2,3}. The redox oscillators help to explain how rhythms are maintained in the absence of transcription and in anucleate cells, such as red blood cells^{4,5}. A redox cycle is at the core of most oscillatory behaviour. In yeast and mammalian cells, interference with these redox cycles alters the period of an oscillation, but does not abolish it⁶. This is consistent with a clock function, but also supports the idea that additional regulatory components control the output of the clock, which is likely to be at the level of gene expression.

Gene expression oscillations are evident at three levels: in cycling levels of transcription, transcripts or proteins. These may be coordinated, but often are distinct, dependent on the varying inputs of post-transcriptional and post-translational control. For example, a cycling transcript may be associated with non-cycling protein levels, especially for proteins with a long half-life. The expression of many genes is controlled directly at the point of transcription by positive- and negative-acting transcription factors encoded by “clock genes”, which create time-delayed negative feedbacks leading to oscillations, often described as transcriptional oscillations (TOs)⁷. However, in mammals and flies rhythmic production of some transcripts is maintained even when the factors proposed to mediated the positive or negative feedbacks are abolished, suggesting alternative inputs into transcriptional control, such as non-coding RNAs or metabolites^{6,8,9}. In addition to transcriptional control of cycling transcripts, many are now known to be controlled post-transcriptionally, although the precise mechanisms are not understood¹⁰⁻¹⁶. Finally, levels of a limited number of proteins oscillate independently of their

42 transcripts¹⁷⁻¹⁹. Interestingly, BMAL, a “clock protein” first described as a transcription factor
43 also regulates translation²⁰.

44 Biological time keeping strategies are also intimately linked with metabolite oscillations.
45 Metabolite concentrations fluctuate at the cellular²¹⁻²³ and organismal level^{24,25}, which reflects,
46 facilitates and interconnects the redox changes and cycling patterns of gene expression
47 underlying biological rhythms⁸. The potential connections between the time-keeping
48 mechanisms and metabolism is an important current area of research, especially given the
49 explosion of metabolically-related conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, cancer and
50 cardiovascular disease linked to lifestyles lacking regular patterns of eating, sleeping and
51 exercise, which would normally be coordinated by cellular clocks²⁶. In mammals, the activity of
52 “clock proteins” is regulated by metabolites while the production of metabolites is, itself,
53 controlled by oscillating gene expression²⁷. Thus, NAD-dependent enzymes, nutrient-sensing
54 regulatory proteins, redox-controlled transcription factors, lysine acetyl transferases and protein
55 kinases are likely to mediate the links between cellular metabolism and biological oscillations⁸.

56 The single cell eukaryote *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can temporally partition its metabolism into
57 distinct rhythmic phases of gene expression, known as the yeast metabolic cycle (YMC) or,
58 alternatively, yeast respiratory oscillations (YROs), offering a powerful system in which to study
59 interconnections between metabolism, rhythmic gene expression and biological cycles. This
60 review will outline the recent advances in our understanding of the YMC, its relationship to
61 rhythms in other organisms, particularly the circadian 24-hour rhythm, and the role of
62 transcription in regulating the YMC.

63 **The yeast metabolic cycle**

64 A metabolic cycle is a global partitioning of metabolism, regulated by an ultradian clock,
65 coordinating mitochondrial energetics and the redox balance in the cells, with transcriptional
66 regulation, mitochondrial structure, DNA replication and the cell division cycle (CDC). The
67 metabolic cycle in the budding yeast *S.cerevisiae*, studied for over 45 years²⁸, is a robust
68 ultradian rhythm in oxygen consumption that synchronises spontaneously when cells are grown
69 at high density in aerobic, nutrient-limited continuous culture, respiring the available glucose²⁸⁻
70 ³⁴ (Fig. 2). Cycling is assessed by levels of dissolved oxygen (dO₂) in the medium, describing two
71 distinct phases known as the high oxygen consumption phase (HOC), interspersed with a period
72 of lower oxygen consumption (LOC).

73 Metabolic cycles with distinct lengths have been studied in yeast, a short phase cycle (approx.
74 40 mins) and a long phase cycle (4-5 hours) that reflect the available glucose and differ in the
75 degree to which the CDC is synchronised with the metabolic cycle, being greater for the long
76 phase YMC^{31,35-38}. The oxidative bursts during the HOC are not merely a function of the CDC, as
77 metabolic cycling can occur in the absence of a CDC³², but rather the CDC and the YMC should
78 be thought of as coupled oscillators that work together to ensure DNA replication and cell
79 division occur only when sufficient cellular energy reserves have accumulated in the LOC. The
80 cyclin dependent kinase (CDK) couples ‘Start’, the point at which the cell becomes committed to
81 entering the CDC, to the initiation of the oxidative burst (HOC). At this point there is a rapid
82 increase in intracellular glucose, as a result of mobilization of glycogen and trehalose stores^{35,36},
83 which is metabolised using both respiration and aerobic fermentation, accompanied by

84 increased O₂ uptake from the medium (the HOC), increased production of CO₂, and secretion of
85 ethanol²⁸, acetate, acetaldehyde and hydrogen sulphide. These secretions help maintain
86 synchrony³⁷⁻³⁹ and are assimilated in the subsequent LOC when carbohydrate stores are
87 replenished.

88 Regardless of the phase length, the YMC is characterised by cycling transcripts^{30,31,40,41} with a
89 robust common cohort that form two superclusters encoding for growth and anabolism during
90 the HOC and mitochondrial growth, catabolism and stress resistance during the LOC⁴². ATP:ADP
91 ratios also oscillate with these transcript superclusters, reflecting their potential to encode
92 alternative metabolic activities and thus alter the energetic state of the cell⁴² (Fig. 2). It is
93 estimated that more than 4,500 transcripts can show periodic expression (greater than 70% of
94 the transcribed genes), although numbers vary depending on growth conditions (more
95 transcripts cycle in high glucose compared to low glucose conditions)⁴³ and on the
96 bioinformatics used to assess cycling⁴⁴.

97

98 **Why cycle transcripts?**

99 Although the NTOs maintain rhythms without the need for transcription, it is generally believed
100 that gene expression cycles play an essential role under most circumstances and that TOs and
101 NTOs are likely to be interconnected⁴⁵ to robustly sustain cellular rhythms⁴⁵. The most obvious
102 answer to the question of “why cycle transcripts?” is to temporally partition incompatible
103 processes promoted by the proteins translated from these transcripts. Yeast show remarkable
104 compartmentalisation of their gene expression during the HOC and LOC phases of YMC that
105 broadly reflects anabolic and catabolic metabolism^{31,41,42}. In *Neurospora*, metabolic genes are
106 the most significantly associated with the circadian cycle^{13,46}. In mice and flies, temporal
107 compartmentalisation of metabolic functions also takes place during their circadian cycle^{12,47,48}
108 and there is now clear evidence for a human circadian metabolome reflecting cyclical metabolic
109 processes^{24,25}.

110 A second compelling argument for cycling genes in these diverse systems is that they define a
111 conserved mechanism for cellular energy conservation. Cycling genes are often the “costliest” to
112 transcribe and translate as they are frequently expressed at high levels. Cycling reduces the
113 costs involved⁴³, because abundant proteins can be synthesised when they are needed and
114 downregulated when they are not. These ideas have led to the concept of a “just-in-time”
115 strategy to deliver components exactly when they are needed⁴¹, which has the net effect of
116 allowing cells to flexibly adapt to their environment. This responsiveness can be seen when
117 spiking a yeast culture with a carbon source such as acetate, which is sufficient to rapidly
118 advance cells into the HOC growth phase³⁷. Thus both yeast and mammalian systems use
119 molecular time-keeping strategies, involving cycling transcripts, to integrate their cellular
120 functions^{43,49}.

121

122 **How do metabolic cycles relate to circadian and ultradian rhythms?**

123 Circadian rhythms, controlled by endogenous circadian clocks, are rhythmic oscillations with a
124 period close to 24 h that synchronise biochemical, metabolic, physiological and behavioural

125 cycles, allowing adaptation to changing light and temperature caused by rotation of the earth²⁷.
126 Despite the fact that “clock” genes and proteins are not conserved, circadian rhythms occur in
127 diverse organisms ranging from bacteria and fungi to plants and animals⁵⁰. It has been proposed
128 that a circadian rhythm is fundamentally a metabolic cycle with additional time keeping
129 mechanisms^{51,52}. Therefore, the ultradian metabolic cycle in yeast should share properties with
130 circadian clocks. Supporting this hypothesis, it has been shown that perturbations to casein
131 kinase 1 or GSK3 β that affect the period of circadian rhythms in cultured mammalian cells, also
132 have similar effects on YMC periodicity (Table I). Similarly, the NTOs, particularly the
133 peroxiredoxins, conserved between yeast and mammalian cells, undergo cycles of oxidation
134 during the YMC and their modulation results in periodicity changes to the YMC and to circadian
135 rhythms⁶. Taken together, these observations suggest a similar origin of the YMC and the
136 circadian rhythms of mammals, although it is possible that enzymes such as CK1 and GSK3 β do
137 not have a specific function in the circadian clock/YMC but a more general function in cells that
138 indirectly affect these rhythms. Interestingly, periodicity of the non-circadian daily tidal rhythms
139 in *Eurydice pulchra* is also influenced by CK1⁵³.

140 Remarkably, budding yeast can also display a circadian clock when entrained with temperature
141 variations to mimic day/night cycles^{54,55}. Perhaps the once-dominant circadian period has been
142 modified to enhance fitness by shortening the period of oscillation, allowing a faster CDC, rapid
143 growth, while maintaining temporal separation of metabolism. The shared features of TOs and
144 NTOs in yeast and mammalian cells might reflect metabolic oscillations as the primitive
145 mechanism on which circadian and ultradian oscillators of modern organisms have been built,
146 including sleep-wake cycles and hibernation⁵², with metabolic cycles being the origins of
147 biological timekeeping⁵⁶, proposed to be a basic universal necessity for fitness by coordinating
148 intracellular metabolism⁴⁹.

149

150 **Factors that alter the periodicity of the YMC or abolish cycling.**

151 Although there has not yet been a comprehensive genome-wide analysis of genes that influence
152 cycling, currently available data highlight a number of major processes including glutathione⁵⁷
153 and peroxiredoxins⁶ redox reactions; ethanol assimilation pathways⁵⁸; sulphur metabolism
154 (cysteine oxidation and reduction by thioredoxins; thiolation of tRNAs; sulphur
155 metabolism)^{6,59,60}; synthesis of the cycling metabolite NADPH²²; acetylation of histone proteins
156 using the cycling metabolite acetyl-CoA^{37,41}; changes to the CDC^{6,60}; and finally links to growth
157 rate^{35,43} (Table II).

158 Metabolic cycling is sensitive to growth conditions, particularly glucose concentration. In the
159 chemostat, with constant environmental conditions, yeast reach steady-state at a specific
160 growth rate and CDC⁶¹, that can be changed by altering the rate at which the culture is diluted
161 with fresh medium. Thus, altering the dilution rate changes the YMC period, effectively by
162 changing the concentration of available glucose. Free glucose levels are almost zero as cells
163 absorb and metabolise the available glucose almost immediately. Each prototrophic strain has a
164 predictable response, and as the dilution rate decreases (lower available glucose) there is an
165 increase in the period of the YMC that is primarily the LOC phase while the HOC phase remains
166 the same or shortens^{33,35}. Thus the YMC is not fixed but shows plasticity enabling adaptation to

167 changing conditions (Fig. 3). Changes to growth rate by limiting different nutrients produces a
168 common signature of HOC and LOC genes whose expression changes⁶². This growth-related
169 common gene expression signature is also observed in strains carrying gene deletions that
170 reduce growth rate, particularly non-essential genes with nuclear-related functions⁶³. These
171 cells spend more time in G0/G1 and show reduced HOC transcripts, associated with growth, and
172 increased LOC transcripts, particularly associated with the environmental stress response (ESR).
173 Put simply, the ESR in yeast reflects a reduced growth rate, changes to the CDC and concomitant
174 changes in the proportion of cells in the population expressing HOC or LOC-related genes, even
175 in exponentially growing batch cultures. These indirect but dramatic changes in levels of
176 thousands of transcripts, simply as a result of interventions that change growth rate, reveal how
177 closely the metabolic cycling transcripts are related to growth and the CDC. This hard-learned
178 lesson from yeast physiology should be considered by those interfering with genes and gene
179 expression in other organisms, as it is likely that many of the changes in gene expression
180 observed also reflect the indirect effects of altering growth rates.

181 The changes to the YMC period that result from mutations in genes encoding CDC regulators are
182 somewhat paradoxical in light of the growth-related signature discussed above, as growth-
183 retarded cell cycle mutants often exhibit a YMC with reduced cycle length rather than
184 lengthened as expected^{6,60}. This difference is rationalised as a faster YMC, with reduced period,
185 presenting more openings for the cells to attempt to enter the CDC and suggests decoupling of
186 the normally tight links between the YMC and the CDC. However, these data are based solely on
187 dissolved O₂ as the indicator of metabolic state and cannot be fully understood until gene
188 expression changes are also assessed.

189 Levels of NADPH reflect the ability of the cell to protect itself from oxidative stress⁶⁴, explaining
190 the high levels of NADPH as cells enter the HOC. Addition of exogenous methionine to cells
191 increases their tolerance to oxidative stress and improves ageing, related to changes in the flux
192 through the oxidative branch of the pentose phosphate pathway and increased levels of
193 NADPH⁶⁵. The *zwf1* mutant, that fails to produce high levels of NADPH, also fails to cycle,
194 suggesting an additional signalling role for NADPH in metabolic cycling.

195 Levels of acetyl-CoA and NADPH peak during the HOC of the YMC. Apart from its role as a
196 central metabolite, acetyl-CoA is also the co-factor for protein acetylation⁶⁶. Levels of acetyl-CoA
197 are likely to reflect the energy state of the cells⁶⁷ and coordinate entry into the YMC and CDC⁶⁸.
198 Gcn5, an acetyl-CoA-dependent lysine acetyltransferase (KAT), is required for metabolic cycling.
199 Although Gcn5 acetylates multiple proteins, its acetylation of histones H3 and H4 plays a key
200 role in metabolic cycling, as amino acid substitutions at acetyltable lysine prevents cycling⁴¹.
201 This also implicates transcriptional regulation in metabolic cycling, through direct changes to
202 chromatin.

203 **Transcriptional regulation of the YMC**

204 Many of the recent studies on transcriptional regulation of the YMC, use the long phase cycle
205 and refer to three major phases, defined by gene clusters with similar gene ontology, known as
206 oxidative (OX), reductive/building phase (RB) and reductive/charging (RC)^{31,41}. When these
207 phases were named, it was assumed that dip in d[O₂] correlated with respiration predominantly
208 in the OX phase, although it has long been known that respiration occurs throughout the YMC

209 but increases, together with glycolysis, in the OX and part of the RB phases (equivalent to the
210 HOC)³⁴. Thus these terms can easily be misconstrued, but as each phase shows distinctive
211 features, OX, RB and RC will be used here (Fig. 3).

212 Three important studies linking nucleosome positioning⁶⁹ or post-translational modifications of
213 histones^{37,41} to cycling transcripts in the YMC, reveal that chromatin is globally altered as cells
214 progress through the YMC. In the RC phase (approximately defining the LOC), nucleosomes are
215 evenly spaced and many nucleosome depleted regions become occupied⁶⁹, although there is no
216 correlation with transcript levels. The transition from RC to OX is accompanied by significant
217 remodelling of OX promoter nucleosomes by the SWI/SNF chromatin remodelling ATPase,
218 opening the chromatin and allowing the transcription machinery access to the transcriptional
219 start site (TSS). Histone H3 lysine acetylation, particularly at H3K9 and H3K18, peaks in the OX
220 and RB phase³⁷, concomitant with the peak in global acetyl-CoA levels²², and acetylation of
221 chromatin at individual promoters⁴¹. However, modifications such as H3K4me3, peak on OX
222 genes after the OX transcripts appear⁴¹ suggesting that not all modifications are instructive for
223 transcription, as widely believed. Indeed, methylation of H3K4 is required for the repression of
224 some OX genes, particularly ribosomal protein genes (RPGs)^{70,71}.

225 At OX genes, promoter nucleosome repositioning correlates with the appearance of transcripts.
226 This implies that reversal of this opening would correlate with OX gene repression. As
227 mentioned, SWI/SNF is strongly enriched at OX genes, particularly at RPGs⁷² that are also
228 regulated by the Iff1 transcription factor. The functions of SWI/SNF and Iff1 are negatively
229 regulated by Gcn5-dependent acetylation^{73,74}. Thus, the peak of acetyl-CoA might coordinate
230 both the activation and subsequent repression of OX genes, by first facilitating and then
231 preventing chromatin remodelling.

232 Acetylation-dependent neutralisation of the positive charges on H3 and H4 may also play a
233 regulatory role. Strains with H3K9,14,18R substitutions show increased O₂ consumption in batch
234 cultures⁷⁵ and a YMC with decreased period⁴¹, indicating more frequent OX phases. This
235 supports a role for chromatin modifications and nucleosome repositioning in repressing OX
236 genes, and the ability to repress OX genes may be essential for metabolic cycling. RB genes also
237 appear to be regulated by chromatin-mediated effects, as strains with reduced histone
238 expression or defects in chromatin assembly show increased respiration and expression of a
239 selection of RB genes including those that control mitochondria⁷⁵. By contrast, RC genes, show
240 no correlation between promoter nucleosome occupancy and transcript levels; rather,
241 nucleosome depleted regions acquire nucleosomes in the RC phase at regions of the genome
242 that also function as boundary elements separating chromosomally interacting domains (CIDs),
243 similar to topologically associated domains in mammals⁷⁶. This suggests that CID boundaries are
244 reconfigured by nucleosomes as cells enter RC. Note that some cells will have undergone
245 mitosis, with marked chromatin condensation immediately prior to entering RC, perhaps
246 explaining this re-organisation. Thus, OX and RC genes have very different requirements for
247 expression, in terms of chromatin re-organisation. Interestingly, the nucleotide content of OX
248 and RC genes is markedly different⁴². Since nucleosomes have certain sequence preferences^{77,78},
249 these differences might underpin their differential regulation by nucleosomes⁴².

250 It is likely that transcription factors (TFs) are required to facilitate chromatin opening at OX
251 genes. Indeed, a detailed study of a cluster of YMC-regulated genes revealed OX gene activation

252 requires specific transcription factors, while RC genes have the capacity to be induced in OX
253 growth conditions, suggesting that at least for the genes studied, phase-specific factors are not
254 required for RC expression¹⁵. In mammals, there is dynamic promoter chromatin opening
255 during circadian rhythms and the BMAL TF, which behaves as a pioneer factor, shifts +1
256 nucleosome positions at many genes, including genes that are not immediately induced⁷⁹. This
257 is interpreted as an *anticipation* of potential events, endowing genes with the capacity to cycle,
258 dependent on conditions. This is somewhat reminiscent of the YMC, where the number of genes
259 that cycle changes with varying conditions^{35,43}. It also suggests that additional signals or factors
260 control the precise timing of transcription at individual genes and can function once the
261 chromatin structure is permissive. Chromatin opening is likely to be a crucial component of the
262 rhythmic timing, as flies with enhanced levels of CYC and CLOCK (equivalent to mammalian
263 BMAL and CLOCK) have increased levels of *per* mRNA and short periods^{80,81}. In the YMC, there is
264 no evidence as yet for a master transcriptional regulator, or set of regulators such as the
265 BMAL/CLOCK/PER/REV-ERB/CRY circadian regulators in mammals, that would bring about
266 transcript oscillations⁸². Nevertheless, transcripts encoding many TFs are known to cycle and
267 peak at all phases of the YMC^{31,39}. If these cycling transcripts are associated with cycling levels of
268 the functional protein, then there is plenty of scope for phase-specific transcriptional regulation
269 during the YMC. However, analysis of TFs during the YMC will require a better understanding of
270 which cycling transcripts are actually regulated directly at the level of transcription.

271 As yet there is no published data on cycling transcription, as opposed to transcripts, during the
272 YMC. However, there is a data set on nascent transcription obtained using NET-seq for yeast
273 growing in glucose and then switched to galactose that may act as a proxy for genes subject to
274 transcriptional regulation during the YMC¹⁵. In addition to the twelve genes expected to be
275 induced on galactose, and required to catabolise galactose, nearly a thousand genes show a >3-
276 fold change in their transcription upon the switch. Curiously, transcripts of the genes regulated
277 by the glucose to galactose shift also cycle in the OX and RC phases the YMC¹⁵ (Fig. 4).

278 Further analysis of the relationship between YMC-regulated genes reveals that their position in
279 the genome is not random and that there is extensive co-regulation¹⁵. For example, OX genes
280 are highly expressed in glucose, while RC genes are more highly expressed in galactose.
281 Moreover, RC genes are actively repressed in glucose, especially when organised in tandem with
282 an upstream OX gene. This provides a mechanism by which transcripts of RC genes might cycle
283 due to direct transcriptional interference from OX genes. In fact, genome-wide analysis reveals
284 common features of such tandem clusters, particularly OX:RC pairs: reciprocal transcription in
285 glucose and galactose conditions; reciprocally cycling transcripts in the YMC; di-cistronic
286 transcripts spanning OX and RC genes; and reciprocal antisense (as) transcription to OX genes
287 spanning the OX gene promoter (Fig. 4). These features contribute to a bimodal switch whereby
288 transcription itself, via transcriptional interference, switches OX genes on and RC genes off or
289 *vice versa*, depending on growth conditions. Mechanistically, di-cistronic transcription over a
290 promoter region leads to Set2-dependent H3K36 methylation, which by signalling histone
291 deacetylation^{83,84}, represses transcription.

292 There is also evidence for histone modifications influencing rhythms and clocks in other
293 organisms. In *Neurospora*, the H3K36 methyltransferase, SET-2, is rhythmically associated with
294 the master regulator gene *frequency (frq)* to suppress its expression, and thus influence clock

295 function⁸⁵. As with yeast, SET-2 is likely to bring about histone deacetylation, as strains
296 expressing H3 with K9,14,18 substituted with Q, to mimic the acetylated state, also show a
297 defective clock. Furthermore, as with many of the YMC clusters that show bimodal transcription
298 and switching, *frq* transcription is regulated by transcription of the antisense transcript *qrf*,
299 which oscillates antiphase to *frq* RNA. In addition, the two transcription units show mutual
300 inhibition⁸⁶, just as observed for the yeast OX gene *HMS2* and its antisense transcript *SUT650*¹⁵.
301 Indeed cycling non-coding transcripts may be a general feature of clocks and rhythms in many
302 different organisms, including mammals (*asPer2*)^{10,87,88}, silkworm (*asPER*)⁸⁹ and plants (*COOLAIR*,
303 antisense to *FLC*)⁹⁰. Antisense transcription is known to bring about a distinct chromatin
304 structure at sense promoters⁹¹ that could explain these state switches during rhythms.
305 Moreover, if the acts of antisense and sense transcription are mutually exclusive in individual
306 cells, supported by RNA fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), which reveals that at a number
307 of loci cells express sense or antisense transcripts but generally not both⁹², then even the
308 production of a short antisense transcript could limit sense transcription during cycles.

309

310 **Summary and perspectives**

311 **What do we NOT know about the YMC?**

312 Our understanding of the molecular events in the YMC is based predominantly on cycling
313 transcripts but how these transcripts cycle (whether they are subject to transcriptional and/or
314 post-transcriptional regulation) and whether transcript cycling affects the proteome or post-
315 translational modifications to the proteome remain to be rigorously addressed. Understanding
316 the relationship between nascent transcription and transcripts will aid in the search for key
317 transcription factors that drive the YMC. A detailed proteome will allow post-translational
318 modifications to proteins to be defined more precisely and give a better understanding of the
319 range of biochemical oscillators in yeast and importantly how they relate to the redox state of
320 the cell and available metabolites. Single-cell studies will enhance our ensemble view of the
321 YMC. Once these features are in place, the YMC will provide an unprecedented view of gene
322 expression and metabolism in a synchronised time-resolved population of cells and undoubtedly
323 shed light on fundamental processes that impact on ageing and metabolic diseases where
324 rhythms are compromised.

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328 the Mellor laboratory and the reviewers for their comments.

329 **Table I: Comparable features of the yeast metabolic cycle and mammalian circadian rhythms**
 330 **in cultured cells**

Feature	Yeast Metabolic Cycle	Circadian Rhythm in cultured cells
Coupled with CDC	YMC can occur without CDC ³² Swe1 alters cycle length ⁶ Long phase YMC is synchronised to CDC ²⁸	Oscillations are coupled with the CDC in mouse embryonic fibroblasts ^{6,93}
Temperature-compensated cycle (cycling is robust, despite changes in temperature)	In yeasts, <i>S.cerevisiae</i> and <i>S. pombe</i> ^{29,94,95}	In mouse embryonic fibroblasts ⁹⁶
Redox and metabolic cycles	Glucose concentration influences cycle length ⁹⁷ Mitochondrial metabolism ^{31,98-100} Redox balance involving NADPH ^{22,31,57,101} Redox balance involving glutathione and GSH ^{22,38,57} Peroxiredoxin over-oxidation cycle ⁶	Glucose utilization in ESCs ⁵⁶ Mitochondrial metabolism ¹⁰² Metabolic events in erythrocytes, fibroblasts and myoblasts ^{5,102-105} Peroxiredoxin over-oxidation cycle ^{6,103}
Rhythmic gene expression (TOs)	Rhythmic transcripts ^{30,31,41,97} Rhythmic chromatin modifications ^{37,41,42} Rhythmic nucleosome positioning ⁶⁹	Rhythmic transcripts and chromatin modifications ^{10,106-109}
Cell autonomous cycling	Condition and strain-dependent constant periods ^{31,55,94,97,101}	In mouse embryonic fibroblasts ⁹³ In neurons ¹¹⁰
Shared determinants of clock speed	GSK3 and CK1 ⁶	GSK3 and CK1 ⁶

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334 **Table II: Factors that alter the periodicity of the YMC or abolish cycling.**

Factor or intervention	Effect on the YMC	Comment	Reference
<i>gcn5Δ</i>	Abolished	Lysine acetyltransferase uses acetyl CoA, a key cycling metabolite, as cofactor.	³⁷
H3K(9,14,18,23,27)R	Abolished	Arginine (R) substitutions at lysines at positions 9, 14, 18, 23 and 27 on histone H3, subject to acetylation, some by Gcn5.	⁴¹
H4K(5,8,12)R	Abolished	Arginine (R) substitutions at lysines at positions 5, 8 and 12 on histone H4, subject to acetylation.	⁴¹
H3(K9,14,18,23,27)A	Decreases YMC period	Alanine (A) substitutions at lysines at positions 9, 14, 18, 23 and 27 on histone H3, subject to acetylation, some by Gcn5.	⁴¹
H4 (5,8,12)A	Decreases YMC period	Alanine (A) substitutions at lysines at positions 5,8 and 12 histone H4, subject to acetylation.	⁴¹
<i>sgf73Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with short period	Anchors a deubiquitinase module into SAGA and SLIK complexes also containing Gcn5; deletion shows reduced levels of H3K9ac;	³⁷

		<i>sgf73Δ</i> exhibited an abnormal RB phase during which cells exhibit a second burst of oxygen consumption	
<i>ada3Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with short period	Required for Gcn5-dependent lysine acetylation, deletion shows reduced levels of H3K9ac; <i>ada3Δ</i> exhibit a shorter HOC phase	37
PF670462	Increases YMC period	Inhibitor of CK1δ; also increases period of mammalian circadian clock.	6
LH846	Increases YMC period	Inhibitor of CK1ε; also increases period of mammalian circadian clock.	6
<i>rim11Δ</i>	Decreases YMC period	GSK3β Ser/Thr kinase homologue; knockdown of homologue also reduces periodicity of mammalian circadian clock.	6
<i>tsa1Δ tsa2Δ</i>	Decreases YMC period	Cytosolic peroxidoredoxins (PRXs), thiol-specific peroxidases, Tsa1 shows cysteine over-oxidation (SO _{2/3}) peaking just after HOC phase when free radicals are high. Single deletions have no effect on YMC.	6
<i>prx1Δ</i>	Increased YMC period	Mitochondrial peroxidoredoxin.	
<i>swe1Δ</i> **	Decreases YMC period	Ser/Thr kinase. Homologue of tumour suppressor gene <i>WEE1</i> , deletions grow more slowly, acts at G2/M and G1 phases of CDC. YMC and CDC remain coupled in deletion but the cell cycle is longer and fewer cells enter HOC phase at any point in time. Mammalian cancer cells also show a wider range of circadian timings.	6
<i>cln1Δ</i>	Slightly increases YMC period	G1 cyclin involved in regulation of the cell cycle; activates Cdc28p kinase to promote the G1 to S phase transition; no growth defect	60
<i>bub1Δ</i> **	Decreases YMC period	Protein kinase involved in the cell cycle checkpoint into anaphase; in complex with Mad1p and Bub3p, prevents progression into anaphase in presence of spindle damage	60
<i>cdh1Δ</i> **	Decreases YMC period	Activator of anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome (APC/C)	60
<i>swi6Δ</i> **	Decreases YMC period	Transcription cofactor; forms complexes with Swi4p and Mbp1p to regulate transcription at the G1/S transition	60
<i>bem2Δ</i> **	Decreases YMC period	Rho GTPase activating protein (RhoGAP); involved in the control of cytoskeleton organization and cellular morphogenesis; required for bud emergence	60
<i>sic1Δ</i> **	Decreased/almost	Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor	60

	abolished	(CKI); inhibitor of Cdc28-Clb kinase complexes that controls G1/S phase transition	
<i>rad53Δ sml1Δ**</i>	Abolished after 4 cycles	Essential DNA damage response protein kinase; required for cell-cycle arrest in response to DNA damage, viable in absence of Sml1, homologue of <i>prd-4</i> required for circadian rhythms in <i>Neurospora crassa</i> .	60
Reduced dilution rate in chemostat	Increases YMC period	As growth rate decreases, the period of the YMC and the time spent in the LOC phase increases and the time spent in HOC phase decreases. Reduced dilution rate is similar to reducing the glucose concentration available for growth.	35
Higher glucose concentration	Decreases YMC period	See above.	43
Phenelzine	Increases YMC period	Antidepressant; Doubles length of LOC phase	40
<i>cys4 3' UTR Δ</i>	Abolished	Cystathionine β-synthase, converts homocysteine to cystathionine, the only enzyme of the sulphur metabolism pathway required for the YMC. Expressed in HOC phase when levels of cystathionine show peak levels.	22
<i>urm1Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with decreased period	Required for tRNA thiolation ($mcm^5s^2U_{34}$). Ubiquitin-like protein involved in thiolation of cytoplasmic tRNAs; receives sulphur from the E1-like enzyme Uba4 and transfers it to tRNA; deletion shows increased chronological lifespan.	59
<i>ahp1Δ</i>	No change in periodicity	Protein thiolation; Thiol-specific peroxiredoxin; reduces hydroperoxides to protect against oxidative damage; function in vivo requires covalent conjugation to Urm1.	59
<i>uba4Δ</i> <i>uba4C397A</i> <i>uba4C225A</i>	Unstable YMC with decreased period	Required for tRNA thiolation (mcm^5s^2U). E1-like protein that activates Urm1 before urmylation; also acts in thiolation of the wobble base of cytoplasmic tRNAs by adenylating and then thiolating Urm1; deletion shows increased chronological lifespan.	59
<i>trm9Δ</i>	Near-normal YMC period	Required for mcm^5 -modified uridines. tRNA methyltransferase; catalyzes modification of wobble bases in tRNA anticodons to 2, 5-methoxycarbonylmethyluridine (mcm) and 5-methoxycarbonylmethyl-2-	59

		thiouridine	
<i>uba4Δ trm9Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with very short period	Strain lacks both tRNA uridine modifications (mcm ⁵ s ² U and mcm ⁵ U).	
<i>elp3Δ</i>	Near-normal YMC period	Required for mcm ⁵ -modified uridines. Subunit of Elongator complex; Elongator is required for modification of wobble nucleosides in tRNA.	59
<i>uba4Δ elp3Δ</i>	Abolishes YMC	Strain lacks both tRNA uridine modifications (mcm ⁵ s ² U and mcm ⁵ U).	
<i>ncs2Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with decreased period	Specific tRNA uridine thiolation defect not required for protein urmylation	59
<i>ncs6Δ</i>	Unstable YMC with decreased period	Specific tRNA uridine thiolation defect not required for protein urmylation	59
<i>zwf1Δ</i>	Abolished	Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, catalyses the first step of the pentose phosphate pathway (PPP), deletion cannot use the PPP to synthesize NADPH, a key cycling metabolite and antioxidant that peaks during the HOC phase of the YMC. Levels of the anti-oxidant NADPH increase with levels of exogenous methionine. Thus methionine is likely to manifest its anti-ageing properties via increased NADPH.	22

335 ** Cell cycle mutants that show slow growth

336 **References**

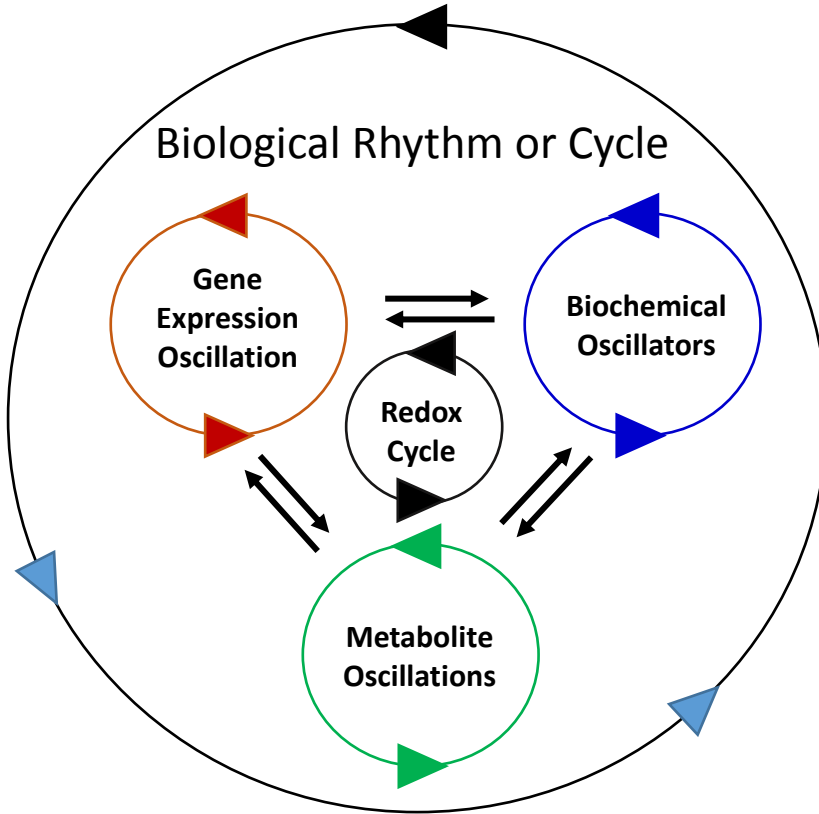
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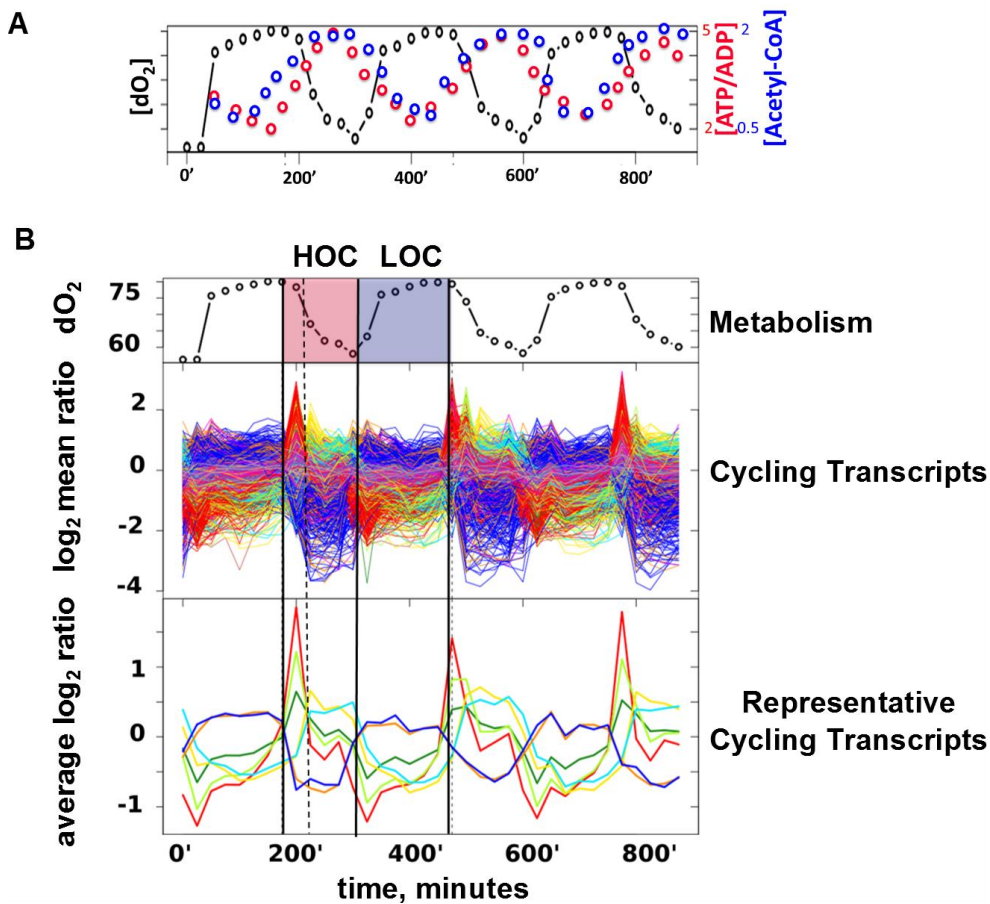
339 **Figure 1. Factors that contribute to biological rhythms and cycles.** Alternative phases of
340 oxidative and reductive metabolism (Redox) are at the core of most rhythms and cycles. Three
341 interacting oscillators contribute to maintenance of the rhythm or cycle. These include cycling
342 metabolites, biochemical oscillators, often subject to rhythmic post-translational modifications,
343 and gene expression oscillations.

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359 **Figure 2. Metabolic cycles in *S.cerevisiae*. A Cycling metabolites during the YMC.** The YMC is assessed
 360 by the concentration of dissolved oxygen [dO_2] in the medium shown for three cycles of the long phase
 361 metabolic cycle (≈ 300 minutes each cycle). Metabolites such as acetyl CoA (blue), and the ATP to ADP
 362 ratio (red), also vary throughout the YMC, peaking antiphase to the levels of dissolved oxygen in the
 363 medium (black). Adapted from Machne and Murray 2012⁴² and Cai et al.³⁷ **B Cycling transcripts during**
 364 **the YMC.** Top panel: Alternative phases of high oxygen consumption (HOC, pink) or low oxygen
 365 consumption (LOC, blue) during the YMC, assessed as % of saturated O_2 concentration. Middle and
 366 Bottom panels: Cycling transcripts in the long phase metabolic cycle show peak levels in the HOC or the
 367 LOC, segregating into two large superclusters, divided by solid lines. Using gene ontology, the
 368 superclusters can be sub-clustered into 7 groups that are shared between the long³¹ and short metabolic
 369 cycles³⁰. These sub-clusters are shown in different colours with the average profile for each sub-cluster
 370 shown in the bottom panel. Three main phases of cycling transcripts are evident, two in the HOC, divided
 371 by dashed line, and one in the LOC. These are the transcript groups define by Tu et al³¹ as oxidative (OX)
 372 – the first subgroup of the HOC phase, reductive/building (RB) – the second subgroup of the HOC phase,
 373 and reductive/charging (RC) – the LOC phase. Note that the terms used to describe the three main
 374 phases of cycling transcripts by Tu et al. 2005³¹, do not reflect the redox state of the cell in terms of
 375 differential oxygen uptake into the cell or its metabolism. Data taken from Tu et al. 2005³¹, and analysed
 376 by Machne and Murray 2012⁴². Taken and adapted from Machne and Murray 2012⁴².

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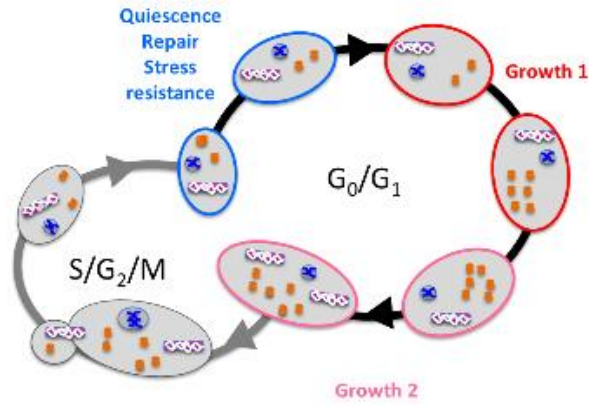
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380 **Figure 3 Coupling of growth rate, metabolic cycling, the cell division cycle and gene expression. A**
381 Schematic showing events in cells as they cycle through the YMC and the CDC. Cells are colour-coded
382 to reflect their YMC phase (red and pink, HOC phase; blue, LOC). In each cell mitochondria (white
383 oblongs), the nucleus (blue) and ribosomes (orange) are indicated. Two growth phases are shown,
384 followed by an optional CDC and then the phase of quiescence, repair and stress resistance during
385 LOC. Growth 1 is equivalent to the OX phase, Growth 2 to the RB phase and Quiescence to the RC
386 phase defined by Tu et al. 2005³¹. **B** Schematic showing events in individual cells in a population over
387 time. Cells show metabolic cycling periodically leave the YMC and enter the CDC, as shown in **A**. Note
388 in order to maintain a synchronous population of metabolically cycling cells, the length of the CDC
389 should equal that of the YMC. The proportions of cells in HOC and LOC phases are related to growth
390 rate. Note that many gene deletions (unrelated to the YMC or CDC) that have an indirect effect on
391 growth rate (slow growth phenotype) will influence the proportions of cells in the HOC or LOC phase
392 and thus levels of transcripts expressed from the genes that are expressed in these phases, even in
393 exponential batch culture. Adapted from Slavov et al.³². **C** Refined analysis of patterns of cycling
394 transcripts during the YMC, proposed by Kuang et al. 2014⁴¹. One cycle of the long phase YMC showing
395 dO_2 in the medium against time of sampling for RNA-seq analysis (1-16), colour coded according to the
396 phases of Tu et al. 2005³¹ and refined by Kuang et al. 2014⁴¹. Clusters of peak transcript levels, relative
397 to the sampling point (1-16), and the phase of gene expression, clustered by Gene Ontology (GO), are
398 colour coded as for **A** and **B**. Adapted from Kuang et al. ⁴¹.

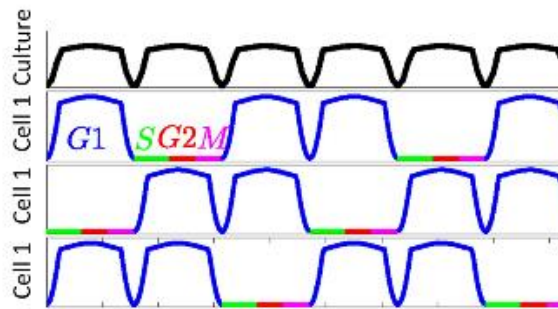
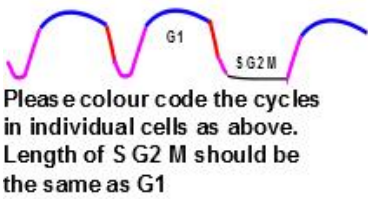
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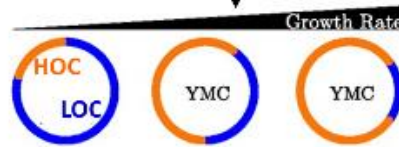
A



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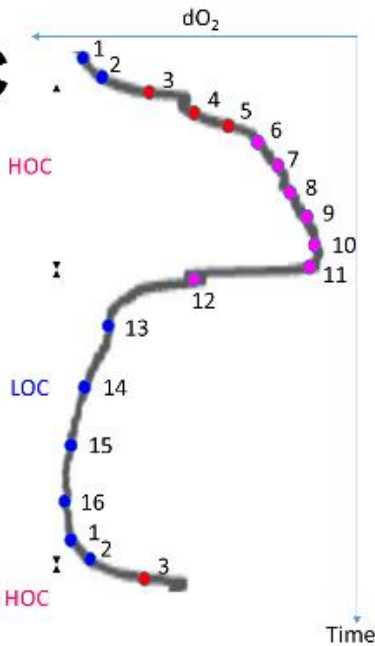
Please label axes dO_2 (y axis going up) and time (x axis bottom)



Time in LOC decreases as growth rate increases

Please colour code the HOC red/purple and the LOC blue resp.

C

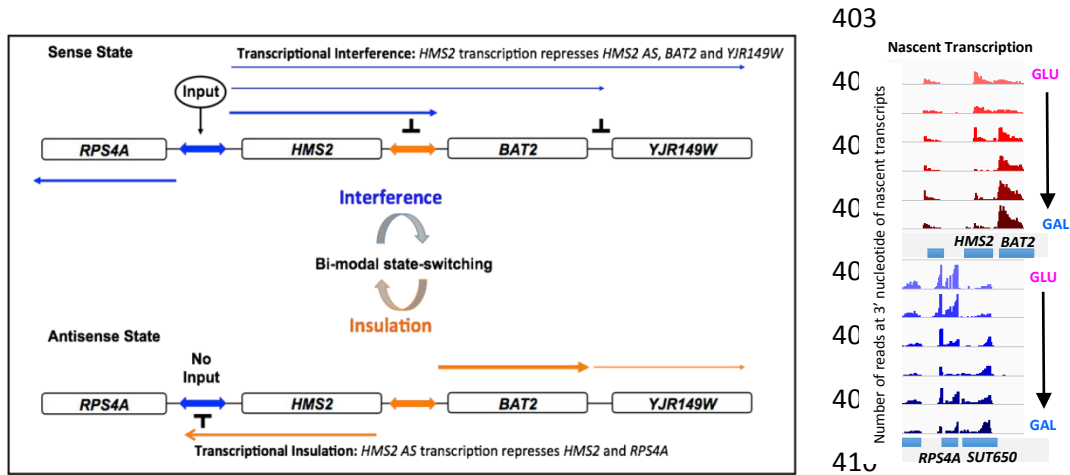


Peak cycling transcript sub-clusters and enriched GO

- 3-4 OX1 Ribosome biogenesis; RNA modification
- 4-5 OX2 Ribosomal protein; amino acid metabolism; regul
- 6-10 RB1 Cell cycle; DNA replication; DNA repair
- 7-12 RB2 Mitochondrial organisation, ribosomal proteins an
- 8-12 RB3 Respiration; mitochondrial envelope; generation c
- 12-16 RC1 Mitochondrial organisation and envelope; cytoske
- 13-2 RC2 Peroxisomes; vacuole; membrane invagination; re
- 16-2 RC3 Response to DNA damage

This figure can be re-drawn in the journal style. Taken from Nguyen et al. 2014. Perhaps colour *RPS4A* and *HMS2* genes and transcripts red/pink (and the double arrow promoter currently in blue) as they are OX genes and *BAT2* and *YJR149W* genes and transcripts blue (and the double arrow promoter driving *BAT2* and *SUT650* (*HMS2* antisense transcript) currently in orange) as these are RC genes or whatever colours are chosen for the phases.

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411 **Figure 4: Transcriptional state-switching at YMC-regulated genes** Right Model for state-switching
 412 between a sense-dominant state and an antisense-dominant state by transcription factors (Input) at the
 413 divergent promoters between *RPS4A* and *HMS2* (blue double arrow) and *HMS2* AS (*SUT650*) and *BAT2*
 414 (*BAT2* and *YJR149W* are expressed during the RC phase and in galactose. During growth in glucose, cells
 415 cycle between the sense-dominant state and the antisense-dominant state with the majority of cells
 416 existing in the sense-dominant state. During growth in galactose, cells cycle between the sense-
 417 dominant state and the antisense-dominant state with the majority of cells existing in the antisense-
 418 dominant state. In the YMC, the sense state is present during the OX phase and the antisense state
 419 during the RC phase. The antisense state is so called as the *HMS2* locus is transcribed in the antisense
 420 direction to produce the transcript known as *SUT650*. The net effect is repression of the divergent
 421 promoter between *RPS4A* and *HMS2* sense and **insulation** of the *BAT2* and *YJR149W* gene promoters
 422 from **transcriptional interference** from transcription events arising at the *HMS2* sense promoter.
 423 Transcription proceeds over the *BAT2* promoter, repressing expression by converting the chromatin
 424 structure to one that is not permissive for transcriptional initiation, via deposition of H3K36me3. In
 425 addition, bi-cistronic and tri-cistronic transcripts extend through *BAT2* into *YJR149W*, repressing its
 426 expression. Thus transcription itself is used to regulate transcription. Adapted from Nguyen et al. 2014¹⁵.
 427 **Left** Nascent transcription assessed using NET-seq¹⁵ over *RPS4A*, *HMS2* and *BAT2* during the switch from
 428 glucose (GLU) to galactose (GAL) reveals the state switch. Genes (blue boxes) and NET-seq reads for the
 429 Watson strand are shown in reds and for the Crick strand in blues. The GLU to GAL shift recapitulates the
 430 transition from the OX phase to the RC phase of the YMC. Samples are taken during growth in glucose
 431 and at 0, (to control for stress of changing medium) 5, 15, 60, and 180 minutes after transfer to
 432 galactose. Note (i) *RPS4A* has gaps in the sequence reads due to homology with other regions of the
 433 genome, (ii) reads over the *BAT2* promoter in glucose and (iii) reads from *SUT650* extending over the
 434 *RPS4A* and *HMS2* divergent promoter as cells spend time in galactose.

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