

Dynamics of the yeast transcriptome during wine fermentation reveals a novel fermentation stress response

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Abstract

In this study, genome-wide expression analyses were used to study the response of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to stress throughout a 15-day wine fermentation. Forty per cent of the yeast genome significantly changed expression levels to mediate long-term adaptation to fermenting grape must. Among the genes that changed expression levels, a group of 223 genes was identified, which was designated as fermentation stress response (FSR) genes that were dramatically induced at various points during fermentation. FSR genes sustain high levels of induction up to the final time point and exhibited changes in expression levels ranging from four- to 80-fold. The FSR is novel; 62% of the genes involved have not been implicated in global stress responses and 28% of the FSR genes have no functional annotation. Genes involved in respiratory metabolism and gluconeogenesis were expressed during fermentation despite the presence of high concentrations of glucose. Ethanol, rather than nutrient depletion, seems to be responsible for entry of yeast cells into the stationary phase.

Introduction

Strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* are industrially important due to extensive use in baking, brewing, wine-making, and in the production of fuel ethanol. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has complex regulatory networks to sense, respond, and adapt to changing environments, but the regulation of metabolic pathways and mechanisms for adapting to the extreme conditions in industrial processes, such as fermentation, have not been well studied. In the natural environment of grape must fermentation, *S. cerevisiae* is subject to high osmotic pressure, hypoxia, high concentrations of sugar, and low nitrogen levels. In addition, as the fermentation progresses, ethanol levels can reach 16% (v/v); in standard laboratory media the ethanol concentration never exceeds 1% (v/v). During fermentation, stationary-phase growth is reached within c. 48 h, but the yeast actively ferments and then survives for months in wine. Many of the 1253 genes that have not been characterized (Pena-Castillo & Hughes, 2007) may well play an important role during the later adaptive stages of fermentation.

Perturbation of environmental conditions has led to the identification of a multitude of stress responses (see Hohmann & Mager, 2003 for a review). While numerous genomics studies have addressed specific responses, a few studies have examined the common components of generalized environmental stress. Large-scale transcriptome analyses of short-term responses have identified the ~868 gene 'environmental stress response' (ESR) (Gasch *et al.*, 2000) and the ~499 gene 'common environmental response' (CER) (Causton *et al.*, 2001), which overlap by ~337 genes. Functions of genes induced by stresses in both studies include carbohydrate metabolism, protein degradation, response to reactive oxygen species, protein folding, and genes with stress response elements (STREs) in their promoters. Repressed genes include those involved in translation and protein synthesis, cytoplasmic ribosomal proteins, tRNA synthesis, and translation. Both the ESR and CER studies identified many genes with unknown functions that respond to stress.

In contrast to the transient stress responses, *S. cerevisiae* is capable of making adaptive changes to grow both aerobically

or anaerobically depending on the environmental conditions. In the presence of glucose at concentrations that exceed 0.5% (w/v), the yeast will ferment regardless of the presence of oxygen. Genes involved in respiratory metabolism and gluconeogenesis can also be regulated by a carbon source (Schuller, 2003). When glucose is depleted, the cells undergo a diauxic shift and respire ethanol produced during fermentation (DeRisi *et al.*, 1997). During the transition, the transcriptional repressor Mig1p is exported from the nucleus to the cytoplasm. Mig1p is a key regulator of carbon catabolite repression; the nuclear export of Mig1p results in derepression of genes required for the utilization of alternative carbon sources (Nehlin & Ronne, 1990; De Vit *et al.*, 1997). The exact mechanism of signal transduction in response to glucose is not entirely understood. Furthermore, little is known about how yeast metabolizes carbon when both glucose and ethanol are in excess.

The incorporation of transcript profiling technologies into enology research has led to a series of observations about gene expression during the early stages of fermentation. Several publications have demonstrated a dramatic change in gene expression patterns during the transition to stationary growth (Puig & Perez-Ortin, 2000; Devantier *et al.*, 2005; Varela *et al.*, 2005). Differences in gene expression patterns between commercial strains of wine yeast revealed a common pattern of stress response between wine strains at the beginning of vinification (Zuzuarregui & del Olmo, 2004; Zuzuarregui *et al.*, 2006). Rossignol *et al.* (2003) explored the genomic expression patterns of *S. cerevisiae* during a 3-day fermentation in a synthetic medium. In this latter study, stationary-phase changes were noted, along with the observation of a plentitude of stress response processes being active. To identify how *S. cerevisiae* responds adaptively to the long-term environmental stresses present during grape must fermentation, the yeast transcriptome was profiled over a period of 15 days.

Materials and methods

Strains, media, and growth conditions

An industrial wine strain of *S. cerevisiae*, Vin13 (Anchor Yeast, South Africa), was used. The yeast was inoculated into 1 L filter-sterilized Riesling grape juice (Marks *et al.*, 2003) with a final cell count of 4×10^6 mL⁻¹. The grape juice contained 214 g L⁻¹ sugar (equimolar amounts of glucose and fructose), 70 mg L⁻¹ ammonia, and 140 mg L⁻¹ free α -amino nitrogen (Marks *et al.*, 2003). Incubation was stationary at 20 °C without the addition of oxygen. Fermentations were conducted in triplicate, and cells were harvested from fermentations after 0.5%, 2%, 3.5%, 7%, and 10% (v/v) ethanol was produced.

Analysis of fermenting wine

Enzymatic kits were used to determine glucose and fructose concentrations according to the manufacturer's instructions (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Laval, QC). Ethanol was measured by HPLC as described previously (Erasmus *et al.*, 2003). Water activity was measured using an Aqualab Series 3 water activity meter (Decagon Devices, Pullmann, WA). All measurements were performed in triplicate.

Microarray analysis

Total RNA was extracted, and isolation of mRNA and cDNA synthesis was performed according to Causton *et al.* (2001). Double-stranded cDNA purification, cRNA synthesis, and fragmentation were performed according to Marks *et al.* (2003). Affymetrix Yeast Genome S98 Chips were used (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA). Preparation of hybridization solution, hybridization, and washing, staining, and scanning of yeast arrays were performed as described by the manufacturer (Eukaryotic Arrays GeneChip Expression Analysis and Technical Manual, Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA). Washing and staining were performed as described previously (Marks *et al.*, 2003).

Analyses of gene expression data

Feature intensities from Affymetrix S98 chips were preprocessed using the robust multi-array average procedure (Irizarry *et al.*, 2003) to obtain probe-set-summarized, normalized gene expression data. Of the 9335 probesets, 6299 probesets were retained that map to verified, uncharacterized, or dubious ORFs from the *Saccharomyces* Genome Database (SGD) (Cherry *et al.*, 1998). Differences in gene expression patterns between commercial wine yeast strains at the beginning of vinification are well characterized (Zuzuarregui & del Olmo, 2004; Zuzuarregui *et al.*, 2006) and the first two time points were not included in the analysis. However, data obtained for these two time points were also deposited in ArrayExpress (GSE8536). Therefore, for each of the 6299 probesets, the primary data consist of three independent biological replicates at each of five time points (the ethanol concentrations of 0.5%, 2%, 3.5%, 7%, and 10% (v/v) were nominally coded as 24, 48, 60, 120, and 340 h, respectively). For the purposes of temporal modeling, the predictor t was defined as the logarithm of the sampling time (in hours), centered around the associated log-time midpoint. The 15 expression measurements for any probeset g were summarized with the following quadratic polynomial:

$$Y_g(t) = \beta_{0g} + \beta_{1g}t + \beta_{2g}t^2 + \varepsilon_g t$$

The intercept β_{0g} captures the overall expression level, whereas the more interesting pair of temporal parameters

(β_{1g} , β_{2g}) provides a probeset-specific summary of the expression change observed during fermentation; the linear term β_{1g} reflects a general trend (e.g. up vs. down) and the quadratic term reflects overall shape (e.g. concave vs. convex).

A statistical test for differential expression was conducted with the null hypothesis of $(\beta_{1g}, \beta_{2g}) = (0,0)$. The P -values from this F -test were converted to q -values (Storey & Tibshirani, 2003). A probeset was classified and the estimated proportion of null genes was $\sim 10\%$. A probeset was classified as differentially expressed if it had a q -value of 0.001 or less and a predicted fold-change of 2 or more at at least one fermentation time point, based on the model.

The temporal parameters (β_{1g} , β_{2g}) were used as the input features for supervised clustering (Bryan, 2004), in order to identify groups of genes with similar temporal trends. The clusters were anchored by 20 genes, selected to span the observed (β_{1g} , β_{2g}) values. A probeset was assigned to cluster k if the squared Euclidean distance to cluster anchor k was smaller than that to any other anchor. All analyses were conducted within the R statistical software environment (R Development Core Team, 2006) and relied on the libraries *affy* (Gautier *et al.*, 2004; Gentleman *et al.*, 2004) and q -value (Dabney & Storey, 2006).

Functional enrichment of genes in clusters

The frequency of individual Gene Ontology (GO) annotation terms was used as a basis to assess biological significance of the gene expression data (Ashburner *et al.*, 2000). Owing to the fact that the vast majority of GO terms are associated with very few genes (i.e. most terms are highly specific), a truncated version of the GO database was used. The truncated GO database consisted of 475 terms, selected for being associated with more than 10 genes. The level, or number of parents in the branching GO hierarchy, was also used as a tool in the analysis. The association between the clusters and GO terms was studied using contingency tables. The χ^2 statistic (and its conventional P -value) was used to summarize evidence for enrichment or depletion of genes having a functional annotation within gene clusters.

Identification of regulatory elements overrepresented in gene clusters

Promoter sequences corresponding to the 5' untranslated region 500 base pairs upstream of the initial ATG for each ORF were downloaded from SGD. A collection of yeast-specific transcription factor-binding site (TFBS) motifs was compiled from the yeast regulatory sequence analysis (YRSA) system (Sandelin *et al.*, 2003) and from the literature (supplementary Table S1). Using the TFBS suite of Perl regulatory analysis modules (Lenhard & Wasserman, 2002), patterns matching the set of 44 TFBS weight matrix profiles in the collection, were searched for and the locations and

scores for hits with matrix match scores exceeding 80% of the normalized score range were noted. For each of the clusters, and two 'combined clusters' comprising clusters 1–6 and clusters 18–20, two statistical measures were calculated: a Z -score and Fisher's exact probability to determine which, if any, of the TFBSs were overrepresented in the gene clusters relative to a background set comprised of all yeast promoter sequences (Ho Sui *et al.*, 2005).

The Z -score measures how frequently a particular TFBS occurs in the promoters of coexpressed genes in a cluster and compares it with the frequency of occurrence in the background set, determining overrepresentation of the motif at the nucleotide level. Briefly, $z = \frac{x - \mu - 0.5}{\sigma}$, where x is the observed number of binding site nucleotides for a given TFBS in the coexpressed set, μ is the expected number of binding site nucleotides based on the background sequences, and σ is the SD. The score is based on the normal approximation to the binomial distribution.

In contrast, the Fisher exact probability compares the proportion of genes in a cluster that contain a particular TFBS to the proportion of genes in the background that contain the TFBS, determining overrepresentation at the gene level. The Fisher's exact test computes the probability, given the observed marginal frequencies, of obtaining exactly the frequencies observed and any configuration more extreme (Fleiss, 1981).

Results and discussion

To investigate how yeast adapts to the harsh conditions during the fermentation of grape must, genome-wide transcription was assayed at five time points during alcoholic fermentation. Correlation coefficients for the biological replicates at individual time points ranged from 0.9575 to 0.9950. The full data set is available in supplementary Table S2.

Clustering of genes based on temporal expression profiles

For each gene, the temporal trend throughout the fermentation process was summarized with two parameter values that describe the overall change and shape of the expression profile. A seeded clustering algorithm was applied in order to group the genes around the expression patterns exhibited by 20 genes whose temporal trends span the range of patterns observed across the entire transcriptome (Fig. 1). For each gene, a test was conducted for temporal trend, based on the null hypothesis that the true expression pattern is a flat line (i.e., no change at any time), and these gene-specific P -values were converted to q -values to control the false discovery rate (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995; Storey & Tibshirani, 2003). Differentially expressed genes were identified as genes having a q -value < 0.001 and exhibiting a

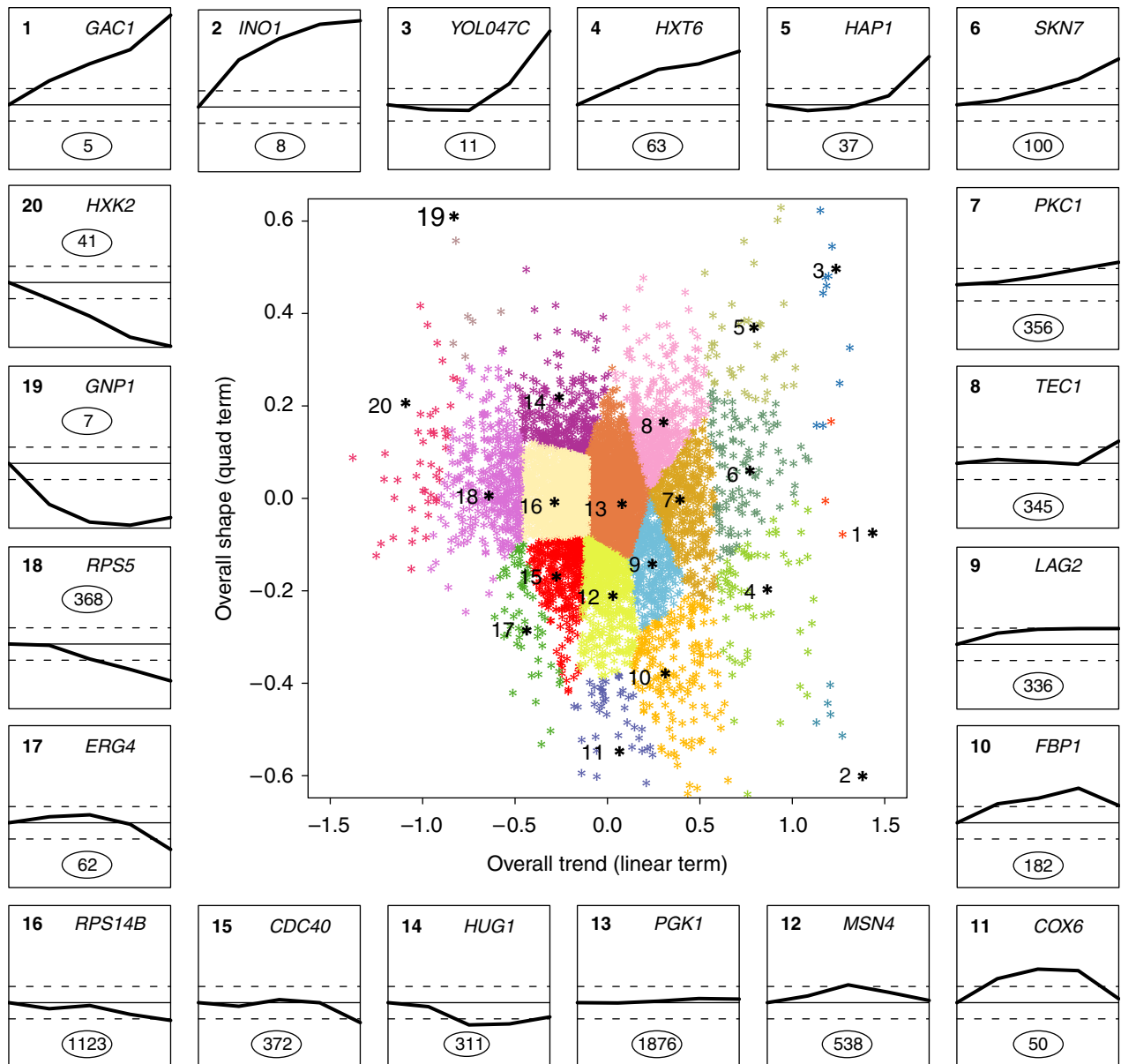


Fig. 1. Clustering of genes based on temporal expression profiles. The center graph shows the entire transcriptome plotted with the coefficients calculated from the expression model. The clusters are anchored by the genes numbered in black. The temporal expression of these genes is displayed in the 20 line graphs on the periphery. The dotted lines indicate twofold change in the expression levels. The number of genes in each cluster is circled in the cluster.

minimum of twofold change in expression at one or more time points during fermentation. Therefore, the definition of differential expression requires a statistically significant temporal trend as well as an expression change that is large in absolute magnitude; 2550 genes were identified that met these criteria, which correspond to 42% of the yeast genome (Table 1). Induction of 1123 genes was sustained until the end of fermentation (clusters 1–10), while 1279 genes were repressed (clusters 14–20). The expression of 148 genes was

transiently induced and returned to steady-state levels by the final time point (clusters 11 and 12) (Fig. 1). The expression of 1876 genes was unaffected (cluster 13, Fig. 1).

Fermentation of grape must induces a novel and adaptive response

Under enological conditions, the yeast cell is exposed to changing nutrient concentrations and diverse forms of

Table 1. Summary of gene counts

Cluster	Genes	Statistically significant temporal trend (q -value ≤ 0.001)		Minimum of twofold change between any two time points (FC ≥ 2)		Differentially expressed (q -value ≤ 0.001 and FC ≥ 2)		Sustained response (minimum of twofold change at final time point)	Strength of long-term response (smallest final expression change for the cluster)	Description of the response
		Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion			
1	5	5	1.00	5	1.00	5	1.00	5	22.73	Sustained induction
2	8	8	1.00	8	1.00	8	1.00	8	13.62	Sustained induction
3	11	11	1.00	11	1.00	11	1.00	11	20.03	Sustained induction
4	63	63	1.00	63	1.00	63	1.00	63	4.83	Sustained induction
5	37	37	1.00	37	1.00	37	1.00	37	4.03	Sustained induction
6	100	100	1.00	100	1.00	100	1.00	100	4.38	Sustained induction
7	356	337	0.95	350	0.98	331	0.93	350	1.87	Sustained induction
8	345	307	0.89	250	0.72	239	0.69	191	1.11	Sustained induction
9	336	239	0.71	190	0.57	162	0.48	114	1.37	Sustained induction
10	182	178	0.98	182	1.00	178	0.98	132	1.43	Sustained induction
11	50	48	0.96	50	1.00	48	0.96	3	1.01	Transient induction
12	538	285	0.53	121	0.22	100	0.19	0	1.00	Transient induction
13	1876	161	0.09	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	No change
14	311	222	0.71	177	0.57	157	0.50	131	1.01	Sustained repression
15	372	311	0.84	241	0.65	226	0.61	137	1.36	Sustained repression
16	1123	760	0.68	473	0.42	450	0.40	473	1.33	Sustained repression
17	62	61	0.98	62	1.00	61	0.98	60	1.97	Sustained repression
18	368	366	0.99	368	1.00	366	0.99	368	3.45	Sustained repression
19	7	7	1.00	7	1.00	7	1.00	7	4.61	Sustained repression
20	41	41	1.00	41	1.00	41	1.00	41	8.66	Sustained repression
Simple total	6191	3547	0.57	2737	0.44	2590	0.42	2231		
Unique total	6088	3493	0.57	2688	0.44	2549	0.42	2186		

Genes in the FSR are shaded. As some genes occur in multiple clusters, the total number of unique genes in the data set in addition to a simple total of the counts in each cluster is provided.

stress. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* responds transcriptionally to stress by general and/or stimuli-specific response mechanisms. In contrast to the transient responses observed in laboratory studies (Gasch *et al.*, 2000; Causton *et al.*, 2001), sustained global changes were observed in transcript abundance for the duration of the fermentation process (15 days), indicating an adaptive response to fermentation stress (Fig. 1). The differentially expressed genes in clusters 1–6, i.e. genes exhibiting sustained and dramatic induction that persists until the final time point (Table 1), are defined as fermentation stress response (FSR) genes. Genes that are down-regulated from the FSR are excluded, as they are primarily involved in protein biosynthesis and ribosomal processing, functions known to be repressed under stress and in the stationary growth phase. A list of the 223 FSR genes is shown in Table 2. These genes show a fourfold or more change in expression at some point during fermentation.

Within the 223 FSR genes, 20% overlap with the transient global stress responses characterized in the ESR or CER (Fig. 2, Table 2). A further 18% overlap with genes that

respond to stress related to osmotic pressure, nitrogen depletion, ethanol increase, and oxidative stress (Table 2). By comparison, more than half (55%) of the repressed genes in clusters 18–20 overlap with the ESR or CER (supplementary Fig. S1).

Of the FSR genes, 28% lack a GO biological process annotation – they are uncharacterized. Of those that are characterized, more than half are associated with cellular and metabolic processes that facilitate the adaptation of the yeast to the continuously changing nutrient environment and the consequences thereof. Specifically, examination of the GO biological processes for these genes reveals that prevalent functional associations include transport (18%), organelle organization and biogenesis (15%), protein modification processes (13%), RNA metabolic processes (12%), response to stress (11%), and transcription (11%) (Fig. 3). The large set of transport-related proteins are primarily involved in glucose uptake, nitrogen regulation, vacuolar function [important for growth under ethanol stress (van Voorst *et al.*, 2006)] and detoxification, reflecting the integrated response to nutrients in the

Table 2. FSR genes, GO process annotations, and the overlap with the ESR, the CER, salt/sorbital-induced osmotic stress (OSM1), sugar-induced osmotic stress (OSM2), short-term ethanol stress (E), genes involved in nitrogen limitation (N), and genes involved in oxidative stress (O)

Cluster	Gene	Maximum fold change	GO biological process	ORF status	Other response						
					ESR	CER	OSM1	OSM2	E	N	O
1	HSP30	80.11	Response to stress	V				x		x	
1	GAC1	44.21	Meiosis*	V							
1	GAT1	29.10	Transcription initiation from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V				x			x
1	CSR2	24.68	Cell wall organization and biogenesis*	V				x			
1	MCH5	22.73	Riboflavin transport	V							
2	CYB2	68.30	Electron transport	V			x	x			
2	INO1	39.14	Inositol metabolic process	V							
2	PHM8	28.99	Biological process unknown	V	x	x	x	x			
2	PUT4	27.37	Proline catabolic process*	V			x	x			
2	HSP26	24.45	Response to stress*	V		x	x	x		x	
2	MEP2	24.36	Pseudohyphal growth*	V							
2	SPI1	23.51	Biological process unknown	V	x	x	x	x			
2	SHC1	20.00	Sporulation (sensu Fungi)*	V				x			
3	YMR244W	32.27	biological process unknown	U							
3	IRC8	32.13	Biological process unknown	U							
3	YJL150W	31.22	Biological process unknown	D							
3	YOL047C	29.44	Biological process unknown	U							
3	MBR1	27.90	Aerobic respiration	V	x						
3	YDL068W	26.56	Biological process unknown	D							
3	YOR318C	25.51	Biological process unknown	D							
3	SPS1	24.93	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V							
3	RDH54	23.27	Meiotic recombination*	V							
3	PES4	21.96	Biological process unknown	V							
3	APJ1	20.03	Biological process unknown	V				x		x	
4	RPI1	19.20	Thiamin biosynthetic process*	V							
4	PUT1	19.06	Glutamate biosynthetic process*	V	x						
4	RSB1	18.74	Response to toxin*	V				x			
4	HPA2	18.35	Histone acetylation	V				x			
4	MFA1	17.69	Pheromone-dependent signal transduction during conjugation with cellular fusion	V							
4	SUE1	17.68	Protein catabolic process	V	x						
4	ATG1	17.61	Autophagy*	V	x			x			
4	YFR017C	17.51	Biological process unknown	U		x	x	x			
4	VHS1	16.06	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V				x			
4	GAP1	15.99	Amino acid transport*	V							
4	PDR15	15.85	Transport	V		x					
4	YLR168C	15.83	Biological process unknown	U							
4	YBR284W	15.70	Telomere maintenance	U							
4	VHR1	14.77	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	U							
4	AGX1	14.62	Glycine biosynthetic process, by transamination of glyoxylate	V		x		x			
4	GSC2	13.38	Cell wall organization and biogenesis*	V				x			
4	STR3	12.50	Methionine biosynthetic process	V							
4	RIM8	11.21	Meiosis*	V				x			
4	YBL065W	11.15	Biological process unknown	D				x			
4	ACS1	10.79	Histone acetylation*	V							
4	JID1	10.41	Biological process unknown	V							
4	YLL020C	10.18	Biological process unknown	D	x						
4	HXT6	9.76	Hexose transport	V							
4	YKL071W	9.71	Biological process unknown	U				x			
4	DAL80	9.43	Transcription*	V							x
4	PTR2	8.62	Peptide transport*	V							
4	TSL1	8.11	Response to stress*	V	x	x	x	x		x	

Table 2. Continued.

Cluster	Gene	Maximum fold change	GO biological process	ORF status	Other response							
					ESR	CER	OSM1	OSM2	E	N	O	
4	PIN3	7.88	Actin cytoskeleton organization and biogenesis	V				x				
4	DOT6	7.81	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V								
4	QNQ1	7.69	Biological process unknown	U	x							
4	PDE1	7.65	cAMP-mediated signaling	V	x			x			x	
4	GSY2	7.58	Glycogen biosynthetic process	V	x	x	x					
4	UPS1	7.57	Mitochondrial protein processing	V								
4	YBR085C-A	7.52	Biological process unknown	U								
4	YCR061W	7.50	Regulation of cell size	U	x	x	x					
4	YER158C	7.43	Biological process unknown	U	x							
4	RGT1	7.26	Glucose metabolic process*	V								
4	CRC1	7.16	Fatty acid metabolic process	V								
4	IRC9	7.11	Biological process unknown	D	x							
4	DIA3	7.07	Pseudohyphal growth*	V								
4	GPX1	6.71	Response to oxidative stress	V	x							x
4	YNL194C	6.63	Sporulation (sensu Fungi)	V	x		x	x				
4	CTA1	6.48	OX and reactive OX species metabolic process*	V				x				x
4	MOD5	6.27	tRNA modification	V								
4	ATG8	6.25	Protein targeting to vacuole*	V	x	x		x		x		
4	HSP78	6.24	Response to stress*	V	x	x		x		x		
4	VID24	6.22	Vesicle-mediated transport*	V								
4	TPO4	6.11	Polyamine transport	V		x						
4	YLL056C	5.97	Response to toxin	U								
4	SSD1	5.87	Response to drug*	V								
4	YIR016W	5.85	Biological process unknown	U			x					
4	AVT4	5.80	Amino acid export from vacuole	V								
4	MGA1	5.78	Filamentous growth	V				x				
4	SSE2	5.66	Protein folding*	V	x	x	x	x				
4	HXT7	5.55	Hexose transport	V								
4	YMR244C-A	5.54	Biological process unknown	U								
4	KRE1	5.51	Cell wall organization and biogenesis	V								
4	IRC15	5.42	Biological process unknown	U								
4	YOR1	5.16	Telomere maintenance*	V								
4	OPY2	5.11	Cell cycle arrest in response to pheromone*	V								
4	YMR253C	5.10	Biological process unknown	U	x							
4	MRP8	4.88	Translation	V	x		x	x				
4	VBA2	4.83	Basic amino acid transport	V								
5	MTR4	21.43	Ribosome biogenesis and assembly*	V								
5	DIP5	19.61	Amino acid transport	V								
5	PLB3	14.78	Phosphatidylserine catabolic process*	V								
5	YJL149W	14.43	Biological process unknown	U			x					
5	BTN2	12.82	Retrograde transport, endosome to Golgi*	V		x		x				
5	MUD1	12.72	Nuclear mRNA splicing, via spliceosome	V								
5	ADR1	12.61	Transcription*	V								
5	YDR042C	12.49	Biological process unknown	U								
5	ULP2	11.21	Mitotic spindle checkpoint*	V								
5	YBR099C	10.95	Biological process unknown	D								
5	YDL012C	10.54	Biological process unknown	U								
5	URN1	10.40	Biological process unknown	U								
5	PHO80	9.88	Telomere maintenance*	V								
5	HAP1	9.63	Positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V								
5	SNG1	9.58	Response to drug	V								
5	SRT1	9.43	Protein amino acid glycosylation	V								
5	MKS1	9.30	Regulation of nitrogen utilization*	V								
5	SLD2	8.98	DNA strand elongation during DNA replication	V								

Table 2. Continued.

Cluster	Gene	Maximum fold change	GO biological process	ORF status	Other response						
					ESR	CER	OSM1	OSM2	E	N	O
5	HRP1	8.45	mRNA cleavage*	V							
5	NRD1	8.36	Transcription termination from Pol II promoter, RNA polymerase(A)-independent	V							
5	CHS1	8.35	Cytokinesis, completion of separation*	V				x			
5	SIS1	7.59	Protein folding*	V							
5	ISA1	7.58	Telomere maintenance*	V							
5	AQR1	7.14	Drug transport*	V							
5	VID27	7.09	Biological process unknown	V							
5	RCL1	6.63	Ribosome biogenesis and assembly*	V							
5	ECM3	6.32	Cell wall organization and biogenesis	V							
5	YML089C	6.29	Biological process unknown	D							
5	MPC54	6.28	Spore wall assembly (sensu Fungi)	V							
5	YOR378W	5.79	Biological process unknown	U							
5	TOR2	5.78	Ribosome biogenesis and assembly*	V							
5	DST1	5.66	RNA elongation from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V							
5	STE5	5.60	Invasive growth (sensu <i>Saccharomyces</i>)*	V							
5	YGL041C	5.25	Biological process unknown	D							
5	SRC1	5.08	Mitotic sister chromatid segregation	V							
5	SSY5	5.02	Protein processing*	V							
5	STU1	4.93	Microtubule nucleation	V							
6	TPO2	17.87	Polyamine transport	V							
6	MUP3	17.09	Amino acid transport	V		x					
6	NRG1	16.02	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V							
6	ARG82	14.69	Response to drug*	V							
6	RTS3	14.44	Protein amino acid dephosphorylation	U				x			
6	HRK1	14.38	Cell ion homeostasis	V							
6	IRC20	12.40	Biological process unknown	U				x			
6	GIP2	11.83	Protein amino acid dephosphorylation*	V			x			x	
6	YKL070W	11.82	Response to toxin	U							
6	GAT2	11.58	Transcription	V	x						
6	SAP155	11.45	G1/S transition of mitotic cell cycle	V							
6	PMC1	11.16	Calcium ion homeostasis*	V	x	x					
6	XBP1	10.83	Response to stress	V	x	x		x			
6	MEP1	10.78	Nitrogen utilization*	V							
6	YIL066W-A	10.30	Biological process unknown	D							
6	PKH2	10.15	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V							
6	YMR102C	9.70	Biological process unknown	U							
6	YDL010W	9.37	Biological process unknown	U							
6	SWI1	9.31	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V							
6	GIS1	9.12	Spore wall assembly (sensu Fungi)*	V	x						
6	YGR146C	9.09	Biological process unknown	U			x	x			
6	YJL144W	8.99	Response to desiccation	U	x			x			
6	RPN4	8.77	Telomere maintenance*	V			x			x	
6	YIL152W	8.51	Biological process unknown	U							
6	TPO1	8.35	Polyamine transport	V							
6	YLR194C	8.28	Chitin- and β -glucan-containing cell wall organization and biogenesis	U				x			
6	FRT1	8.25	Response to stress	U							
6	KNS1	8.25	Protein amino acid phosphorylation	V	x	x					
6	YDR186C	7.77	Biological process unknown	U							
6	AHC1	7.72	Histone acetylation	V			x				
6	SKN7	7.62	Response to oxidative stress*	V							x

Table 2. Continued.

Cluster	Gene	Maximum fold change	GO biological process	ORF status	Other response							
					ESR	CER	OSM1	OSM2	E	N	O	
6	MET4	7.62	Positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V								
6	PDR5	7.58	Response to drug*	V								
6	YPL230W	7.51	Biological process unknown	U	x							
6	YLL020C	7.41	Biological process unknown	D	x							
6	TOS3	7.39	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V				x				
6	ZEO1	7.32	Telomere maintenance*	V								
6	MUB1	7.23	Regulation of cell budding	V								
6	RIM15	6.99	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V						x	x	
6	ROG3	6.91	Biological process unknown	U								
6	HAC1	6.88	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V								
6	KTR2	6.87	Protein amino acid N-linked glycosylation*	V				x				
6	FLO10	6.82	Flocculation via cell wall protein-carbohydrate interaction	V								
6	OPI9	6.67	Biological process unknown	D								
6	SKS1	6.58	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V								
6	YPL136W	6.53	Biological process unknown	D								
6	TPO3	6.52	Polyamine transport	V								
6	SUR1	6.39	Sphingolipid biosynthetic process*	V								
6	ISF1	6.36	Aerobic respiration	V	x			x				
6	MPH1	6.19	DNA repair	V								
6	YOL036W	6.10	Biological process unknown	U								
6	YNL144C	6.07	Biological process unknown	U								
6	NAB6	6.04	RNA metabolic process	U								
6	AFG3	6.01	Translation*	V								
6	PGA1	6.00	Secretory pathway	U								
6	YOR390W	5.99	Biological process unknown	U								
6	SPG1	5.97	Biological process unknown	U				x				
6	MCH1	5.91	Transport	V		x						
6	YML116W-A	5.91	Biological process unknown	D								
6	SSL2	5.86	Transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter*	V								
6	FSP2	5.85	Biological process unknown	V								
6	EDC2	5.83	Deadenylation-dependent decapping	V	x	x	x					
6	OSW2	5.75	Spore wall assembly (sensu Fungi)	U				x				
6	PSR2	5.74	Response to stress	V								
6	PSK1	5.66	Protein amino acid phosphorylation*	V								
6	YAK1	5.51	Protein amino acid phosphorylation	V	x		x	x		x		
6	OAF1	5.49	Peroxisome organization and biogenesis*	V								
6	PDR1	5.47	Response to drug*	V				x				
6	GPI18	5.38	GPI anchor biosynthetic process	U								
6	SNQ2	5.37	Response to drug*	V								x
6	IXR1	5.34	DNA repair	V								
6	MDN1	5.27	rRNA processing*	V								
6	YLR297W	5.26	Biological process unknown	U								
6	PAU21	5.17	Biological process unknown	U								
6	YER093C-A	5.17	Biological process unknown	U								
6	RAD54	5.17	Chromatin remodeling*	V								
6	RAD7	5.16	Nucleotide-excision repair, DNA damage recognition	U								
6	UBC8	5.01	Protein monoubiquitination*	V	x	x		x		x		
6	VPS72	5.01	Protein targeting to vacuole*	V								
6	MGR1	5.00	Mitochondrial genome maintenance	U				x				
6	YOR152C	5.00	Biological process unknown	U	x							
6	TSC11	4.99	Cell wall organization and biogenesis*	V								
6	ISU1	4.97	Iron ion homeostasis*	V								
6	YMR252C	4.96	Biological process unknown	U								
6	BUL1	4.96	Mitochondrion inheritance*	V							x	

Table 2. Continued.

Cluster	Gene	Maximum fold change	GO biological process	ORF status	Other response							
					ESR	CER	OSM1	OSM2	E	N	O	
6	RPO21	4.81	Transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	V								
6	SPG5	4.80	Biological process unknown	U			x	x				
6	KSP1	4.78	Protein amino acid phosphorylation	V								
6	INP1	4.77	Peroxisome inheritance	U								
6	LEE1	4.75	Biological process unknown	V	x							
6	PEP12	4.75	Golgi to vacuole transport	V		x		x				
6	YPS3	4.75	Chitin- and β -glucan-containing cell wall organization and biogenesis*	V							x	
6	YMR085W	4.62	Biological process unknown	U								
6	YML081W	4.59	Biological process unknown	U								
6	PTK1	4.56	Polyamine transport	V								
6	YIL067C	4.55	Biological process unknown	U								
6	YMR291W	4.53	Biological process unknown	U	x	x	x					
6	ASG1	4.43	Biological process unknown	U								
6	ATO3	4.41	Nitrogen utilization*	V								
6	SRX1	4.41	Response to oxidative stress	V				x				x

Boldface indicates genes that have unknown biological process. An asterisk (*) adjacent to the GO term indicates that the gene product has more than one associated GO term, and only the term most commonly used for annotation is shown.

environment, multiple stresses, and toxins produced during vinification. These results show that many of the FSR genes have not been associated with stress previously, and that a sizeable proportion of these genes required for long-term adaptation to fermentation conditions have yet to be characterized.

The stress response of a single industrial wine yeast strain, Vin13, in fermenting Riesling grape must has been examined; 40% of the yeast genome significantly changed expression levels to mediate long-term adaptation to fermenting grape must. Among the genes that changed expression levels, 223 FSR genes were identified that are permanently induced at various points during fermentation. However, it must be noted that the composition of grape musts can vary significantly with respect to the sugar concentration, and lipid, nitrogen, and vitamin compositions and concentrations. The transcriptional response of other industrial wine yeast strains in different grape musts should therefore be investigated to determine whether any additional FSR genes exist.

Attenuated glucose repression

Saccharomyces cerevisiae can grow oxidatively on many nonfermentative carbon sources such as pyruvate, lactate, acetate, and ethanol. These compounds are oxidized in the citric acid cycle and ATP is generated by reoxidation of reduced coenzymes in the mitochondrial electron transport system by oxidative phosphorylation. Several genes needed for oxidative energy metabolism, mitochondrial function, and the catabolism of nonfermentable carbon sources are

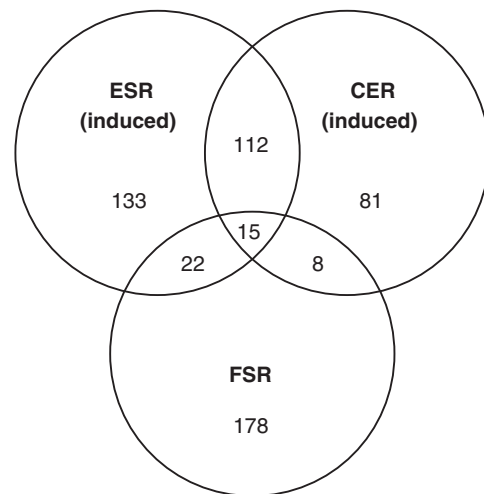


Fig. 2. FSR. Venn diagram showing the number of genes associated with two well-known transcriptionally characterized stress responses. ESR – genes induced in the environmental stress response (Gasch *et al.*, 2000), CER – genes induced in the common environmental response (Causton *et al.*, 2001), FSR – fermentation stress response genes. Refer also to supplementary Fig. S1.

repressed by high concentrations of glucose (Gancedo, 1998; Johnston, 1999).

At the onset of fermentation, the sugar concentration in the grape must was 21.4% (w/v) (equimolar amounts of glucose and fructose). These data show an increase in expression of multiple glucose-repressed genes, indicating a partial attenuation of classic glucose repression during fermentation. Young *et al.* (2003) identified 40 of the most

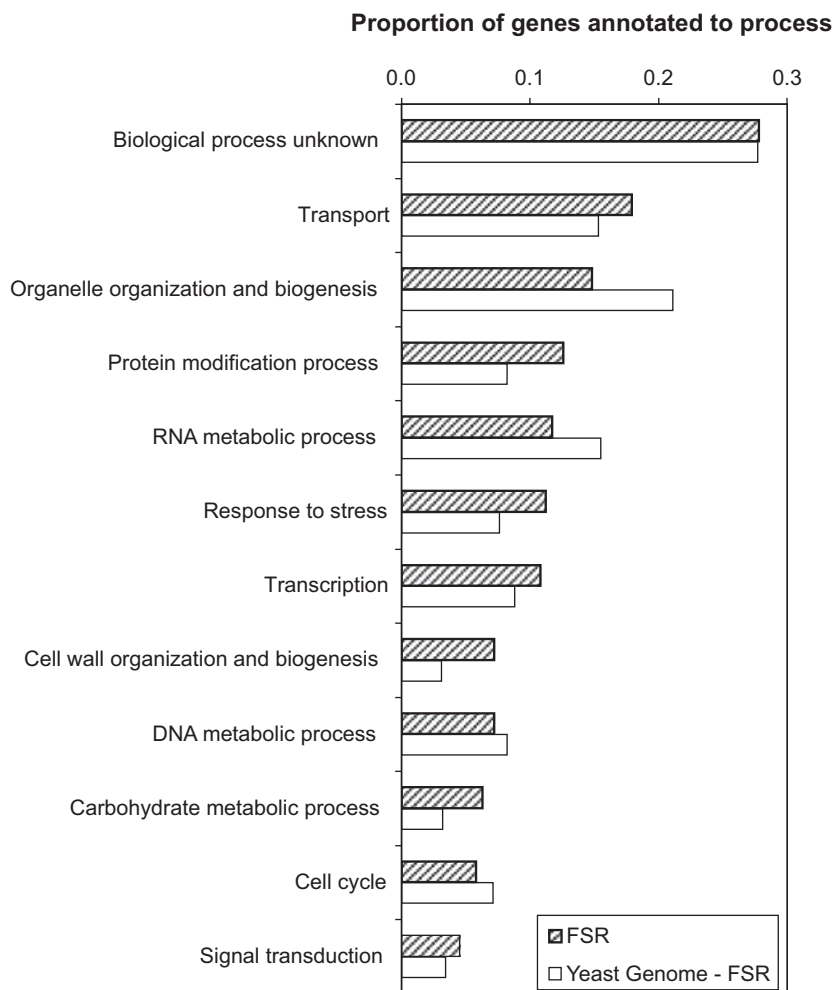


Fig. 3. Functional annotations of genes in the FSR using biological process GO Slim Terms from SGD. The distribution of terms for the rest of the yeast genome is shown for comparison.

highly glucose repressed genes based on expression ratios from derepressed vs. repressed growth conditions. Twenty-three of these genes are up-regulated during fermentation (supplementary Table S3A). Furthermore, genes involved in mitochondrial respiration/oxidative phosphorylation (supplementary Table S3B), hypoxic genes involved in heme, sterol and unsaturated fatty acid biosynthesis (supplementary Table S3C), and genes associated with oxidative stress (supplementary Table S3D) were all induced during fermentation while the glucose concentration in the media should still be repressive. Several genes annotated to 'carbohydrate metabolism' in clusters 9 and 10 (supplementary Table S3E) are reported to be glucose repressed (Dennis & McCammon, 1999; Lodi *et al.*, 1999; Schuller, 2003); many of these genes are involved in glycolysis and gluconeogenesis. The induction of numerous glucose-repressed and oxygen-regulated genes indicates that cellular respiration may not be fully repressed during fermentation.

Statistical analysis of the GO process terms shows an enrichment of the terms 'electron transport', 'oxidative phosphorylation', and 'cellular respiration' among the induced genes (Fig. 4).

The regulators Mig1p, Adr1p, and Cat8p play a pivotal role in the transcription of glucose-repressed genes. Mig1p binds to the promoter sequences and represses the expression of many genes in yeast cells growing in high concentrations of glucose. Conversely, Cat8p and Adr1p encode carbon source-responsive transcription factors shown to activate the expression of genes for metabolism of non-fermentative carbon sources when glucose is depleted (Schuller, 2003). Statistically enriched TFBSs in the promoters of FSR genes were ranked using *Z*-scores; the enrichment was then further evaluated with Fisher exact probabilities to determine enrichment of the sites at the gene level (Ho Sui *et al.*, 2005). Binding sites for Mig1p and Adr1p, as well as the carbon source-responsive element

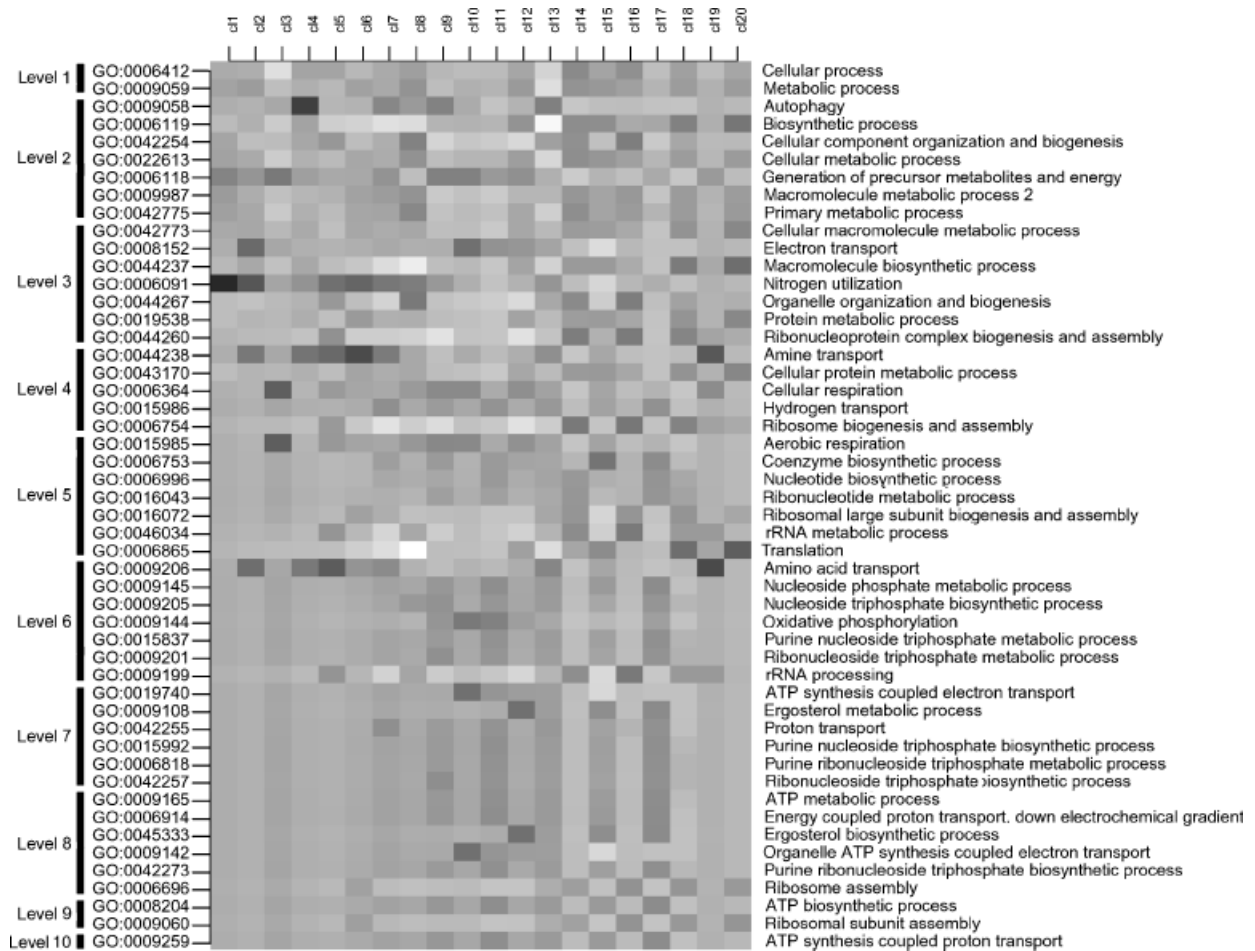


Fig. 4. Heat map of the association of GO terms to clusters. White represents depletion and enrichment increases with darker squares (based on the χ^2 statistic).

(CSRE) bound by Cat8p ranked among the 10 most abundant TFBS motifs in the FSR genes (Table 3), lending further support to the hypothesis that glucose repression is not fully functional over the course of fermentation. A full listing of motif scores for each of the 20 clusters is available in supplementary Table S4.

The *HXK2* gene is highly expressed during growth on glucose (Moreno & Herrero, 2002). Hxk2p is involved in both hexose phosphorylation and the regulation of glucose repression (Entian *et al.*, 1984; Rose *et al.*, 1991). Hxk2 interacts with Mig1 to form a complex located in the nucleus that mediates glucose repression (Ahuatzi *et al.*, 2007). Deletion of *HXK2* leads to expression of a number of genes normally subject to carbon catabolite repression (Diderich *et al.*, 2002). The data showed that *HXK2* expression was down-regulated 18-fold during fermentation (supplementary Table S2; Cluster 20 in Fig.1). The significant down-regulation of *HXK2* expression during fermentation of grape must, may, therefore, contribute to

the expression of genes that are normally repressed by glucose.

Proposed models for alleviation of glucose repression

A number of explanations are proposed for the observed attenuation of glucose repression. Firstly, there could be genetic differences between the industrial yeast strain used (Vin13) and the laboratory strains, resulting in an altered response to glucose. There is no evidence to suggest this is the case as Vin13 has been shown to respond comparably to laboratory strains to osmotic stress and nitrogen catabolite repression (Erasmus *et al.*, 2003; Marks *et al.*, 2003). Secondly, stress, particularly increasing ethanol concentration, could disrupt the structure of membranes affecting membrane-bound glucose sensors and/or could alter protein structure of other proteins involved in signaling. Thirdly, the increase in expression of glucose-repressed

Table 3. Highest ranked transcription factor binding site motifs for FSR genes

Rank	TFBS motif	Functional annotation	Z-score	Fisher score	Genes containing site	Logo
1	ADR1P	Carbohydrate metabolism, glucose repression	19.33	8.21E-02	166	
2	PDR3*	Chemical agent resistance; detoxification	18.35	7.26E-04	65	
3	STRE*	Stress response element	17.82	7.57E-04	48	
4	CSRE*	Carbon source responsive element; gluconeogenesis	14.81	1.40E-03	136	
5	UASPHR	DNA repair; DNA damage response	13.78	4.60E-02	189	
6	LEU3*	Amino acid biosynthesis	11.74	9.74E-04	47	
7	MIG1c*	Carbohydrate metabolism; glucose repression	11.70	4.37E-03	132	
8	MIG1b	Carbohydrate metabolism; glucose repression	10.53	6.29E-02	73	
9	UME6*	Amino acid metabolism; nitrogen metabolism, mitotic cycle and cell cycle control	10.20	8.75E-03	114	
10	CAR1_r	Nitrogen metabolism	8.38	1.23E-01	114	

*TF motifs with Z-score > 10 and Fisher scores < 0.01. This combination of empirically-derived thresholds has been used to discriminate relevant binding sites in reference sets of genes while reducing the false positive rate to < 10% in simulations using random promoter sequences (Ho Sui *et al.*, 2005).

genes might be due to the activation of the retrograde response pathway. Because active dry yeast is prepared in a highly aerobic environment, the yeast cells contain large numbers of respiratory-efficient mitochondria at inoculation. Prolonged fermentative metabolism and aging of the cells would cause mitochondrial dysfunction, potentially inducing the retrograde response. This is unlikely, as the induction of no peroxisomal *PEX* genes was found. Fourthly, a yet unidentified ethanol-sensing mechanism that

functions in the presence of excess glucose might exist. Finally, the significant down-regulation (18-fold) of *HXX2* might contribute to relieve glucose repression during wine fermentations (Entian *et al.*, 1984; Rose *et al.*, 1991; Diderich *et al.*, 2002; Ahuatzzi *et al.*, 2007). The down-regulation of *HXX2* might also be partially responsible for stuck alcoholic wine fermentations.

The most noticeable change during wine fermentation is the decrease in fermentable sugars and the accompanied

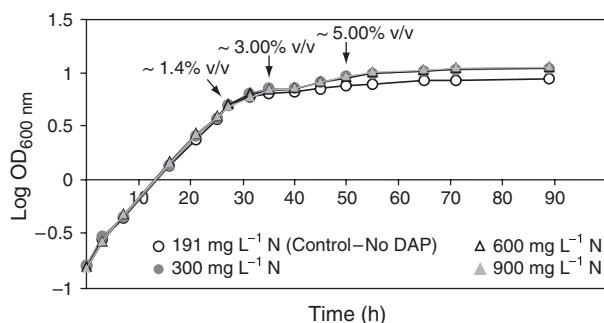


Fig. 5. Growth of Vin13 in Riesling grape juice containing either 191, 300, 600, or 900 mg L⁻¹ N. The nitrogen content of Riesling grape juice containing 191 mg L⁻¹ N was adjusted to either 300, 600, or 900 mg L⁻¹ N using DAP. ADY of Vin13 was inoculated to 3×10^6 cells mL⁻¹ in 250-mL Kimax bottles fitted with vapour locks containing 200 mL Riesling grape juice. Ethanol concentrations (% v/v) are indicated on the graph.

rapid increase in ethanol concentration. Ethanol's dual role as a stressor to the cell and potential carbon source during respiration that may follow fermentation, along with our results, suggest that the yeast cell has adapted a unique mechanism to respond to the presence of ethanol independent of the glucose concentration. The response of yeast to ethanol is not detectable in classic laboratory studies because low concentrations of glucose (2% w/v) yield low concentrations of ethanol < 1% (v/v). To further complicate matters, oxygen is limiting during grape must fermentations, thereby preventing the effective utilization of ethanol as a carbon source. Furthermore, down-regulation of *HXK2* expression is not observed during short-term laboratory fermentations. It is likely that glucose repression is alleviated in response to both ethanol and oxygen in the environment and limited or no Hxk2p.

Ethanol as a regulator of fermentation

The main product of fermentation is ethanol, and wines contain as much as 16% (v/v) of this compound. Ethanol inhibits yeast growth and viability as it negatively affects membrane integrity as well as intracellular and membrane-related processes (Ingram & Buttke, 1984; Leao & Van Uden, 1984; Lloyd *et al.*, 1993; Piper, 1995; Alexandre *et al.*, 2001). Ethanol, at concentrations affecting growth and fermentation rates [3–10% (v/v)], causes potent activation of the plasma membrane H⁺-ATPase – a probable mechanism to regulate the yeast cell's internal pH (Rosa & Sa-Correia, 1991). Although ethanol is the main stress factor during fermentation, relatively little is known of its effect on the transcriptome and proteome of yeast.

The short-term response of a laboratory strain of *S. cerevisiae* to a 7% (v/v) ethanol spike during the early exponential phase was investigated by global expression

analysis (Alexandre *et al.*, 2001). The yeast responded by increasing expression of genes involved in energy metabolism, stress response, protein trafficking, and ionic homeostasis. Comparison with the Alexandre data set reveals that 41 ethanol stress genes were induced during fermentation; included within the overlapping genes are the heat shock genes *HSP104*, *HSP26*, *HSP30*, *HSP42*, *HSP78*, *SSA1*, *SSA4*, and *SSE1*, and the ethanol stress gene *GRE3*. However, other ethanol stress genes were not activated in this study, including *HSP12*, *GPD1*, *ALD2*, *HSP82*, *HOR2*, and *DAK1*. Ten short-term ethanol stress genes are present in the FSR, comprising 5% of the FSR (Table 2).

A genome-wide screen of the yeast deletion collection for ethanol-sensitive mutants on complex medium supplemented with 2% glucose and 6% ethanol identified 46 mutants with impaired growth (van Voorst *et al.*, 2006). Genes that were required for growth included those involved in the general stress pathway, cell integrity pathway, vacuolar function, and mitochondrial function. Two of these (*BEM2*, *SIT4*) exhibited slow growth when further tested in fermentations supplemented with 20% glucose. None of the identified genes are part of the FSR; eight were induced in clusters 7–12 and 10 were repressed in clusters 15–20 (Fig. 1). However, other genes with similar functional profiles are present in the FSR, such as genes involved in vacuolar transport and mitochondrial function (Table 2), suggesting the activation of these pathways to regulate the response to ethanol.

Osmotic stress

The high sugar concentration (21.4% w/v) in the Riesling grape must is a source of osmotic stress to the yeast cell. This stress is partially relieved during fermentation due to the conversion of sugar to ethanol and CO₂, as evidenced by an increase in water activity from an initial value of 0.965–0.987 at the last sampling point when ethanol is c. 10% (v/v). The osmo-regulatory response of *S. cerevisiae* results in the enhanced production and intracellular accumulation of glycerol as the main compatible solute to counter-balance osmotic pressure (Hohmann, 2002). This is mediated by the high osmolarity glycerol (HOG) pathway (Brewster *et al.*, 1993). Genes induced by high salt or high sorbitol were compared with the genes in this data set; a total of 104 of 186 genes induced by high salt/sorbitol (Rep *et al.*, 2000) were induced during the course of fermentation. 22 of these genes were present in the FSR (Table 2).

Analysis of gene expression patterns in a wine yeast strain subjected to 40% (w/v) sugar stress identified 589 genes with altered expression patterns (Erasmus *et al.*, 2003). It was found that 232 of the sugar-induced stress genes are also induced during fermentation; 50 of these are in the FSR (Table 2). Osmotic stress-responding genes, based on the

union of the Rep *et al.* (2000) and Erasmus *et al.* (2003) data sets, comprise 27% of the FSR, indicating that osmotic stress plays a role in the FSR.

Nature of the signal for entry into stationary growth

Entry into the stationary phase is common to adverse conditions and is reflected by the dramatic reduction of ribosome biogenesis (Warner, 1999; Nomura, 2001; Miyoshi *et al.*, 2001, 2003; Jorgensen *et al.*, 2004). Consistently, it is observed that the majority of repressed genes are preferentially annotated to protein metabolism, translation, and ribosome biogenesis and assembly (Fig. 4). Analysis of TFBS motifs in repressed genes shows enrichment of the rRNA processing element (RRPE), polymerase A and C (PAC) and repressor activator protein (RAP1) motifs (supplementary Table S4). These motifs are conserved within the promoters of many genes implicated in cell growth and ribosome synthesis (Moehle & Hinnebusch, 1991; Li *et al.*, 1999; Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Wade *et al.*, 2001; Fingerman *et al.*, 2003).

Under laboratory conditions (i.e. low concentrations of fermentable carbon sources such as glucose that is present at 2% in standard media), yeast cells enter diauxic growth when glucose is depleted, and subsequently enter into the stationary phase when ethanol is depleted (Johnston & Carlson, 1992; DeRisi *et al.*, 1997). Carbon sources never become depleted during vinification, and carbon depletion, therefore, cannot be responsible for entry of yeast cells into the stationary phase during fermentation. Nitrogen sources, however, can become limiting during fermentation and is the main cause of problematic fermentations. These data show that yeast cells in fermenting grape musts enter the stationary phase as early as 32 h after inoculation when glucose is in excess and the ethanol concentration is ~2.0% v/v (Fig. 5). This is consistent with reports by Rossignol *et al.* (2003).

To test the hypothesis that nitrogen limitation is responsible for yeast cells entering into the stationary phase during fermentation, fermentations were conducted that contained increasing concentrations of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP); yeast growth, nitrogen utilization, and ethanol production were monitored during the course of the fermentation. Surprisingly, yeast cells entered into stationary phase at the same time point in all the fermentations, independent of nitrogen or carbon depletion (Fig. 5). However, the common factor in all instances was an ethanol concentration of *c.* 2.0% (v/v). No further growth occurred after 50 h when the ethanol concentration reached ~5.0% (v/v) despite the fact that nitrogen was in excess. After 32 h, the ammonium concentration in the control grape must, and must supplemented with 300, 600, or 900 mg L⁻¹ DAP was 0, 63, 262, and 480 mg L⁻¹, respectively. The free alpha

amino nitrogen content was 13, 23, 39, and 59 mg L⁻¹, respectively. This experiment was repeated in yeast nitrogen base (Difco) containing 21.4% sugars (equimolar amounts of glucose and fructose); nitrogen was adjusted with DAP to 191, 300, 600, or 900 mg L⁻¹. Yeast cells entered the stationary phase after 48 h when the ethanol concentration reached *c.* 2% (v/v) (data not shown). Ethanol produced during fermentation thus seems to be the trigger for entry into the stationary phase.

Conclusions

Wine fermentations subject yeast to a barrage of stressors, including osmotic pressure, hypoxia, nitrogen depletion, and increasing ethanol concentrations. Global genomic expression patterns over the duration of fermentation revealed an integrated compendium of stress responses as well as a novel long-term adaptive response, which is referred to as the FSR. Approximately 28% of FSR genes have not yet been characterized. FSR genes exhibit sustained and dramatic induction under fermentation conditions and further studies will be required to elucidate their roles under wine-making conditions, which differ considerably from standard laboratory conditions. This study hypothesized that ethanol acts as a signal that activates a hitherto unidentified ethanol signal transduction pathway regulating genes in the FSR. The identification and characterization of regulatory circuits that govern the FSR will provide an insight into the remarkable ability of *S. cerevisiae* to flourish and ferment grape must and then survive the hostile environment of wine for months. A concerted study of yeast during wine fermentation will also lead to annotation of many of the orphan genes in the FSR. We cannot, however, exclude the possibility that fermentation of different grape musts that vary in composition might reveal more FSR genes. Finally, the results indicate that contrary to previous reports, growth arrest of yeast cells was not due to depletion of nitrogen in fermenting grape must; ethanol seems to be the trigger for entry into the stationary phase. These data suggest that studies restricted to standard laboratory conditions are inadequate to understand the regulation of yeast metabolism in industrial fermentations and the regulatory role of ethanol during wine fermentation should be explored.

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Authors' contribution

V.D.M. and S.J.H.S. contributed equally to this paper.

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Supplementary material

The following supplementary material is available for this article:

Table S1. Position weight matrix models for transcription factor binding sites used in the regulatory analysis.

Table S2. Probe-set-summarized, normalized expression measures and data analysis for RNA hybridized to Affymetrix S98 arrays. Cells were harvested during fermentations at 0.5%, 2%, 3.5%, 7% and 10% (v/v) ethanol, corresponding to approximately 24 h, 48 h, 60 h, 120 h, and 340 h time points, respectively.

Table S3. (A) Forty most highly glucose repressed genes (derived from Young *et al.*, 2003). (B) Induced genes involved in mitochondrial respiration/oxidative phosphorylation. (C) Induced genes involved in sterol biosynthesis. (D) Induced genes involved in oxidative stress. (E) Induced genes annotated to carbohydrate metabolism.

Table S4. Identification of over-represented transcription factor binding site motifs in each gene cluster. Scores are also shown for genes in larger groupings of the clusters.

Fig. S1. Venn diagram showing the number of induced or repressed genes in fermentation that are associated with transcriptionally characterized stress responses. Environmental Stress Response (ESR), Common Environmental Response (CER), Fermentation Stress Response (FSR).

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