

Chance and Necessity in the Pleiotropic Consequences of Adaptation for Budding Yeast

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Abstract

Mutations that a population accumulates during evolution in one (“home”) environment may cause fitness gains or losses in other conditions. Such pleiotropic fitness effects determine the evolutionary fate of the population in variable environments and can lead to ecological specialization. It is unclear how the pleiotropic outcomes of evolution are shaped by the intrinsic randomness of the evolutionary process and by the deterministic variation in selection pressures across environments. To address this question, we evolved 20 replicate populations of the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in 11 laboratory environments and measured their fitness across multiple conditions. We found that evolution led to diverse pleiotropic fitness gains and losses, driven by multiple types of mutations. Approximately 60% percent of this variation is explained by a clone’s home environment and the most common parallel genetic changes, while about 40% is attributed to the stochastic accumulation of mutations whose pleiotropic effects are unpredictable. While populations typically specialized to their home environment, generalists also evolved in almost all conditions. Our results suggest that the mutations accumulating during evolution incur a variety of pleiotropic costs and benefits with different probabilities. Therefore, whether a population evolves towards a specialist or a generalist phenotype is heavily influenced by chance.

Introduction

Populations adapt by accumulating mutations that are beneficial in their current environment, along with linked hitchhiker mutations [1]. If a population finds itself in a new environment, the effects of previously accumulated mutations may change, potentially conferring fitness benefits or incurring fitness costs in the new condition. Such byproduct (pleiotropic) effects of adaptation in one condition on fitness in others can expand the organism’s ecological niche [2–4], lead to ecological specialization and speciation [4–6] and help maintain genetic and phenotypic diversity in populations [7, 8]. Fitness trade-offs can also be exploited for practical purposes, for example, to create attenuated antiviral vaccines [9] or to slow down the evolution of multi-drug resistance [10]. However, despite decades of research, we still lack a fundamental understanding of the statistical structure of pleiotropy, especially for new mutations [3, 6–8, 11–14]. That is, how do mutations that arise and reach high frequencies in a population adapting to one condition typically affect fitness in other conditions?

To explain widespread ecological specialization and local adaptation in nature, pleiotropy was originally assumed to be mostly antagonistic, such that fitness benefits in one environment must come at a cost in others [15–17]. However, recent field studies have found that locally adaptive alleles confer pleiotropic fitness defects much less frequently than anticipated [8, 12–14, 18]. Although ecological specialization and local adaptation can arise without trade-offs [19–21], it is also possible that field studies provide a skewed view of the structure of pleiotropy because of statistical complications and confounding factors, such as migration and unknown environmental variation [22–24].

Laboratory microbial and viral populations are powerful model systems where the structure of pleiotropy can be probed under controlled conditions and with a degree of replication seldom achievable in natural systems [25–44] (also see recent reviews [13, 14, 21]). Experimental studies generally support the conclusions from the field that fitness trade-offs exist [25–28, 30–39, 41, 44, 45] but are not ubiquitous [29, 31, 33, 36, 40, 42, 43, 46]. However, why generalists or specialists evolve in different evolution experiments is not entirely clear [13, 18, 36]. One possibility is that adaptation to each home environment leads to the accumulation of mutations which have typical, home-environment dependent, pleiotropic fitness effects, such that the pleiotropic outcomes of evolution depend primarily on the differences in selection pressures between environments [36, 41]. Then the set of home and non-home environments determines whether specialists or generalists evolve in each specific case.

It is also possible that chance events play an important role [13, 33, 36]. Since independently evolving populations stochastically acquire different sets of mutations which could have dramatically different pleiotropic effects [13], even populations evolving in the same condition may reach pleiotropically different states. Thus, in addition to differences in selection pressures between environments, random chance may determine whether a population evolves towards a specialist or a generalist phenotype.

Disentangling and quantifying the contributions of selection and chance to pleiotropy requires observing evolution in many replicate populations and measuring their fitness in many other conditions. To this end, we evolved populations of yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in a variety of laboratory environments, sequenced their full genomes, and measured the fitness of the evolved clones in multiple panels of non-home conditions. To quantify the contribution of natural selection and evolutionary stochasticity to pleiotropy, we estimate the variance in the pleiotropic fitness gains and losses explained by these two factors. In addition, we examine how pleiotropic outcomes depend on the similarity between the new and the home environments.

Results

To investigate the pleiotropic consequences of adaptation, we experimentally evolved 20 replicate *S. cerevisiae* populations in 11 different laboratory environments (a total of 220 populations). Each population was founded from a single colony isolated from a common clonal stock of a laboratory strain. We chose the 11 laboratory environments to represent various degrees of several types of physiological stresses (e.g. osmotic stress, temperature stress). A complete list of all 11 evolution conditions, plus two additional conditions used for assays, is provided in Table 1.

We evolved each population in batch culture at an effective size of about $N_e \approx 2 \times 10^5$ for about 700 generations using our standard methods for laboratory evolution (see Methods for details). Seven populations were lost due to pipetting errors during evolution, leaving a total of 213 evolved lines. We randomly selected a single clone from each evolved population for further analysis.

Specialization is the typical outcome of adaptation

To understand how adaptation to one (“home”) environment alters the fitness of the organism in other (“non-home”) environments, we measured the competitive fitness of each evolved clone relative to their common ancestor across multiple conditions (Methods). We first focused on a “diagnostic” panel of eight conditions that represent different types of physiological stresses (see Table 1).

Fig. 1 shows the median change in fitness of these clones across the eight diagnostic conditions. As expected, clones evolved in all environments typically gained fitness in their home environment, although the magnitude of these gains varied across conditions (diagonal entries in Fig. 1). We quantified the degree of specialization as the average fraction of non-home environments where clones lost fitness relative to their ancestor (Methods). Fig. 1 (left bar graph) shows that, by this definition, populations evolved in all environments typically specialized to various degrees (e.g., compare populations evolved at pH 3 and at Low Temp).

For the long-term survival of an ecological specialist, its fitness in the home environment must be higher than that of populations evolved elsewhere. To test whether adaptation leads to a “resident” population that is fitter than “invader” populations evolved elsewhere, we estimated the proportion of pairwise competitions between residents and invaders where the resident wins (Methods). We found that, in most home environments, an average resident is able to outcompete most or all invaders from other environments (Fig. 1, bottom bar graph). The exception to this rule is the pH 3 environment, where residents lost in more than half of competitions.

We conclude that adaptive evolution typically leads populations to specialize to their home environment, and the evolved specialists are typically able to resist invasions from populations evolved elsewhere. As expected, the specific set of conditions where an evolved population gains and loses fitness depends on the population’s home environment. One exception, which we discuss below, is the unexpected similarity between pleiotropic consequences of evolution in three apparently unrelated conditions: adaptation to High Salt, pH 3 and pH 7.3 led to similar and large median fitness losses in SC, Gal, and Low Temp.

Evolution leads to diverse but environment-specific pleiotropic outcomes

The patterns of median fitness gains and losses shown in Fig. 1 may be driven by differences in selection pressure between environments, such that mutations acquired in different environments have systematically different pleiotropic effects in other conditions. Alternatively, these patterns could have arisen because different clones stochastically acquired different sets of mutations with idiosyncratic patterns of fitness variation across environments.

To discriminate between these two possibilities, we quantified the variation in the patterns of pleiotropic fitness gains and losses. For each clone, we calculated its “pleiotropic profile”, the 8-dimensional vector containing its fitness changes (relative to the ancestor) in the eight diagnostic environments. If clones isolated from the same home environment cluster together in this 8-dimensional space, it would indicate that evolution in this environment leaves a stereotypical pleiotropic signature. Lack of clustering would suggest that the patterns in the median pleiotropic profiles shown in Fig. 1 are driven by evolutionary stochasticity and idiosyncratic pleiotropy.

To visualize the clustering of pleiotropic profiles, we used t-stochastic nearest neighbor embedding (t-SNE) to project the 8-dimensional profiles onto two dimensions (Fig. 2a,b). This t-SNE embedding is useful in looking for cluster structure because it minimally distorts the original local distances between points, such that clones that are

close together in the two-dimensional embedding have similar 8-dimensional pleiotropic profiles (in contrast to principal components analysis where this may not always be the case). In Fig. 2d, we show the patterns of pleiotropy associated with each of the measured clones. Each clone is colored consistent with its color in Fig. 2b.

The t-SNE embedding reveals that there are two large and clearly separated clusters, both of which contain clones from all home environments (Fig. 2a). The main features that discriminate the two clusters are the fitness in SC, Gal and Low Temp (Fig. 2b,d). Clones that belong to one cluster lost 10 to 40 percent in these conditions, whereas clones that belong to the other cluster did not (Fig. 2b,d). We refer to these two phenotypes as V^- and V^+ , respectively, for reasons that will become clear in the next section.

Clones evolved in different conditions are not distributed identically in the t-SNE space. First, clones from different home environments have different likelihoods of evolving the V^- phenotype (χ^2 -test, $p = 6.8 \times 10^{-8}$), e.g., High Temp versus Gal evolved clones. In fact, this variation explains the large median fitness losses in SC, Gal and Low Temp which we saw in Fig. 1 (see also Extended Data Fig. 1). Second, within the large V^+ and V^- clusters, clones from some environments form tight smaller clusters (e.g., High Salt clones; see Fig. 2a). More generally, 2.8 of the 5 nearest neighbors of a typical clone are from the same environment, compared with 0.60 ± 0.12 under random permutation.

Next, we set out to quantify the extent to which the observed variation in pleiotropic profiles is explained by the deterministic differences in selection pressures between environments versus the intrinsic randomness of the evolutionary process. Using a nested linear model, we estimated the fractions of observed variance in fitness in each diagnostic environment that is attributed to the identity of the home environment of a clone and to measurement noise. We attribute the remaining, unexplained, variance to evolutionary stochasticity, i.e., the fact that each clone acquired a unique set of mutations which have idiosyncratic pleiotropic effects. We found that the home environment accounts for 20%–51% of the variance in fitness, depending on the diagnostic environment (Fig. 2c). Measurement noise accounts for less than 4% of variance, leaving 48%–77% attributable to evolutionary stochasticity (Fig. 2c). If clone’s status with respect to the V^+/V^- phenotype becomes known (for example, after measuring its fitness in Low Temp), the fraction of unexplained variance drops to 16%–70% (Fig. 2c).

Taken together, these observations show that the home environment leaves a distinct signature in the clone’s pleiotropic profile, such that clones evolved in the same condition tend to be more similar to each other than clones evolved in different conditions. However, these deterministic differences are generally less important than the randomness of the evolutionary process, accounting for on average 34% of the variance in pleiotropic outcomes, compared with 65% for stochastic effects.

The genetic basis of pleiotropic outcomes

Next, we sought to determine the genetic basis underlying the diverse pleiotropic outcomes that we observed above, using two approaches. First, we used DNA staining and flow cytometry (see Methods) to look for ploidy changes because this is a common mode of adaptation in yeast [47–51]. Second, we sequenced the full genomes of the evolved clones. We carried out these analyses on all 213 clones, i.e., those evolved in the diagnostic conditions considered above as well as other intermediate-stress environments listed in Table 1. Sequencing failed at the library preparation stage or due to insufficient coverage in 15 cases, leaving us with 198 sequenced clones. Using standard bioinformatic methods for calling SNPs and small indels (Methods), we identified a total of 1925 *de novo* mutations. We note that, because our sequencing and analysis

pipeline can result in false negatives (i.e. certain mutations are difficult to confidently identify), our results represent a subset of all mutations in each sequenced clone.

Loss of killer virus causes the V^- phenotype

We began by looking for the genetic differences between the V^+ and V^- clones. We found no association between V^+ or V^- phenotypes and ploidy or any of the mutations identified in the sequencing data. Instead, multiple lines of evidence demonstrate that the V^- phenotype was caused by the loss of the yeast killer virus, a toxin-antitoxin system encoded by a ~ 2 kb cytoplasmic dsRNA [52–56] that was present in the ancestor of our experiment (and was retained in the V^+ clones). First, we found that both the ancestor and 7 out of 7 randomly selected V^+ clones displayed the killer-virus band in a gel electrophoresis assay (Methods), while all of the 7 randomly selected V^- clones did not (Fig. 3a). Second, we competed the evolved clones against the reference strain cured of the killer virus (Methods). We carried out this assay at Low Temp because V^- clones have the largest fitness defect in this condition in competitions against their direct virus-carrying ancestor (Fig. 2d). As expected, this severe fitness defect entirely disappears in competitions against the cured ancestor (Fig. 3b). We obtained several additional pieces of evidence which support the conclusion that the loss of the killer virus is the cause of the V^- phenotype (see Methods and Supplementary Figs. 1 and 2).

Our results suggest that the severe fitness defects in SC, Low Temp, and Gal environments (Figs. 1 and 2d) are not due to an inherent growth disadvantage. Rather, V^- clones suffer large losses of fitness in competitions against the virus-carrying ancestor because they succumb to the virus expressed by the ancestor. Consequently, these fitness losses are frequency-dependent (Extended Data Fig. 2). They are particularly severe in SC, Low Temp, and Gal likely because virus activity is higher in these conditions [57]. Nevertheless, virus loss evolved even in these environments (Fig. 2d). This initially puzzling observation could be explained if virus virulence was lost first and resistance was lost second, after non-virulent genotypes dominated the population. In support of this explanation, we found some evolved clones that have similar fitness relative to both the virus carrying and virus-cured ancestors (Fig. 3b, horizontal lines), suggesting they are resistant but non-virulent [58]. A recent study that examined the co-evolution of yeast and its killer virus also reported such stepwise progression towards virus loss and showed that virus loss likely provides no fitness benefit to the host [59].

Diversity at the genetic level underlies diversity of pleiotropic outcomes

We next looked for the genetic basis for the fine-scale phenotypic variation between clones that we observed in our t-SNE plot (Fig. 2a,b). We found that 35 out of 213 clones became diploid during evolution. Diploids evolved more often in some environments than in others ($p = 1.3 \times 10^{-4}$, χ^2 -test) and 24 out of 35 diploids retained the killer virus, while 11 lost it (Fig. 2b). Moreover, 13 V^+ diploid clones that evolved in Low Temp and Gal formed a small cluster in the t-SNE space (Fig. 2a, inverted triangles), suggesting that a change in ploidy, irrespective where it evolved, leads to certain characteristic changes in the pleiotropic profile, perhaps in conjunction with other mutations.

We next used our full-genome sequencing data to call putatively beneficial SNPs and indels. We identified such mutations as nonsynonymous, nonsense, or frameshift changes within “multi-hit” genes, defined here as genes that were mutated in four or more clones across all home environments or in two or more clones from the same home environment (see Methods and Supplementary Fig. 3). In total, we identified 176 such mutations in 42 multi-hit genes (Fig. 4a). Only three individual multi-hit genes (SIR3, HNM1, and PDE2) were significantly associated with one home environment ($p < 0.01$,

Bonferroni-corrected permutation test; see Methods). Mutations in other multi-hit genes arose in multiple home environments, but with significantly different frequencies ($p < 10^{-4}$, Methods; Fig. 4a).

To quantify the extent to which this genetic information improves our ability to statistically predict the fitness of a clone in a diagnostic environment, we expanded the list of predictor variables in the nested linear model described in the previous section to include the presence or absence of multi-hit mutations shown in Fig. 4a and the ploidy status. We found that mutations in multi-hit genes account for 11%–30% of the variance in pleiotropic effects (Fig. 4b), and all genetic factors combined account for 17%–77% of variance. After accounting for these genetic factors, a clone’s home environment still explains 5%–35% of variance. This implies that, even though mutations in some genes fail to meet the multi-hit gene significance threshold, they nevertheless have somewhat predictable pleiotropic effects. 15%–60% of variance remain unexplained, and we now attribute it to the accumulation of mutations with unpredictable pleiotropic effects.

In summary, multiple types of genetic changes accumulate during evolution in all our environments. Genetic changes at the same loci occur in populations evolving in different environments, but with different rates. As a result, a clone’s genotype at a few loci explains about half of variation in its pleiotropic profile. A clone’s genotype and home environment together on average explain approximately 60% percent of this variation. The remaining $\sim 40\%$ are attributed to the stochastic accumulation of mutations whose pleiotropic effects are unpredictable.

Fitness trade-offs are not inevitable but their frequency increases with dissimilarity between environments

We next sought to understand what determines whether a clone evolved in one condition gains or loses fitness in another. Our hypothesis is that the pleiotropic outcomes depend on the dissimilarity between the test condition and clone’s home environment [36, 42]. Since it is unclear how to measure similarity among conditions in our original diagnostic panel, we tested this hypothesis in three additional panels of environments, where yeast is exposed to different intensities of a particular type of physiological stress (salt, temperature, pH; see Table 1). To simplify interpretation, we restricted this analysis to V^+ haploid clones (see Methods).

Consistent with results for the diagnostic panel (Fig. 1, Extended Data Fig. 1), clones typically gained more fitness in their home environment than clones evolved in other conditions in the same panel (Fig. 5a–c). The mean fitness of a clone was lower in conditions more dissimilar to its home environment, consistent with our hypothesis. Higher moments of the distribution of pleiotropic outcomes might also depend on the similarity between conditions, but the patterns are less clear (Extended Data Fig. 3).

The fact that clones evolved at one extreme of a panel on average lost fitness at the other extreme suggests that there may be inherent physiological trade-offs between fitness in dissimilar environments. However, we found that many clones evolved at one extreme of each panel actually gained fitness at the other extreme (Fig. 5d–f). The only exception were the clones evolved in the more acidic environments all of which lost fitness in the most basic conditions (Fig. 5b,e). However, some of the clones evolved in the more basic environments gained fitness in the more acidic conditions, suggesting that mutations beneficial at both extremes are available. In fact, generalists—clones whose fitness increased across the entire panel—arose in almost all environments (Fig. 5g–i).

These results demonstrate that there exist mutations that are beneficial across the entire range of environments that vary along one physico-chemical axis. Thus, the trade-offs between fitness even in the most dissimilar conditions along such axis are not physiologically inevitable. To further corroborate this conclusion, we measured the

correlation between fitness of clones in pairs of environments in each panel (Extended Data Figs. 4–6). If fitness trade-offs between a pair of conditions were physiologically inevitable, we would expect a negative correlation between fitness measured in these conditions. Instead we observe diverse and complex fitness covariation patterns, but there is a notable lack of strong negative correlations between clone fitness even in the most dissimilar pairs of environments. In conclusion, our results suggest that whether a population evolves towards a specialist or a generalist depends on the specific set of mutation that it accumulates, i.e., this outcome is largely stochastic.

Discussion

To assess how chance and necessity in evolution affect the fitness of an organism across multiple environments, we evolved populations of budding yeast in a variety of laboratory “home” conditions. We characterized each population by its “pleiotropic profile”, the vector of fitness gains and losses in an array of diagnostic environments. We found that a diverse set of pleiotropic profiles arose during evolution in all home conditions. Underlying this phenotypic diversity, we found a diversity of evolutionary outcomes at the genetic level. Nevertheless, home environments leave statistically distinct signatures in the genome, which in turn lead to statistically distinct pleiotropic profiles for clones evolved in different conditions. We estimated that a clone’s home environment and the set of most common genetic changes together explain about 60% of variance in clone’s pleiotropic fitness gains and losses. The remaining $\sim 40\%$ are attributable to evolutionary stochasticity, i.e., the accumulation of hitchhikers or rare beneficial variants whose pleiotropic effects are unpredictable.

Despite the fact that the pleiotropic outcomes of evolution in any individual population are to a large degree governed by chance, clear and repeatable patterns emerge when we consider ensembles of populations evolved in the same home environment. On average, evolution leads to specialization, so that pleiotropic fitness gains are typically smaller or turn into losses in environments that are less similar to the home environment (Fig. 5). The most obvious explanation for these patterns is that different environments exert different selection pressures on the organism, but variations in the spectra and rates of mutations across environments may also play a role [60].

Our results help us better understand the evolution of specialists and generalists, a long-standing problem in evolutionary ecology [11, 21, 61]. To explain the ubiquity of specialists, many models require physiological trade-offs, or antagonistic pleiotropy [15, 18, 61]. On the other hand, it has long been appreciated that fitness losses in non-home environments can arise without physiological trade-offs if the population accumulates mutations that are neutral in the home environment and deleterious elsewhere [19, 42]. However, field and experimental studies so far do not clearly favor one model over another [3, 8, 12, 13].

To explain existing data, Bono et al recently proposed a model that unifies the antagonistic pleiotropy and mutation accumulation perspectives [13]. In their model, the fitness effects of mutations form a continuum, such that the mutations accumulated in the home environment may provide a range of pleiotropic fitness costs and benefits in a non-home condition (see Fig. 1 in Ref. [13]). If mutations that incur pleiotropic costs are more common and/or more beneficial than those that provide pleiotropic benefits, the population will tend to lose fitness in the non-home condition and evolve into a specialist. Our results are consistent with this model. Moreover, they indicate that the probabilities of acquiring mutations with various pleiotropic effects depend on the similarity between conditions. As the physico-chemical similarity between conditions declines, more mutations that are beneficial in one become deleterious in the other. As a result, populations are more likely to suffer pleiotropic fitness costs in conditions more

dissimilar from the home environment.

In this work, we examined the statistics of pleiotropy among mutations that arose in populations of a particular size descended from one particular ancestral yeast genotype. These statistics likely depend on the population size because populations of different size sample different sets of adaptive mutations [62]. Furthermore, different genotypes likely have access to beneficial mutations with different statistics of pleiotropy [63]. To understand these broader patterns, we need to know the joint distribution of fitness effects of new mutations and how it varies across genotypes.

Assuming that the structure of pleiotropy does not change drastically between closely related genotypes, our results suggest that longer periods of evolution in a constant environment should lead to further specialization, simply because pleiotropically costly mutations are more abundant and generalists have no advantage. In nature, most populations live in fluctuating environments where generalist mutations are favored by selection. Why then do “jacks of all traits” not evolve? Our results suggest that generalist genotypes may not be physiologically impossible but are simply unlikely to evolve because mutations that are beneficial in increasingly larger sets of distinct conditions become exceedingly rare.

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Materials and methods

Experimental evolution

The *S. cerevisiae* strain yGIL104 (derived from W303, genotype *MATa*, *URA3*, *leu2*, *trp1*, *CAN1*, *ade2*, *his3*, *bar1Δ::ADE2*, [64]) was used to found 220 populations for evolution. Each population was founded from a single colony picked from an agar plate. Populations were propagated in batch culture in 96-well polystyrene plates (Corning, VWR catalog #29445-154), with 128 μ l of media per well. Populations evolving in the same environment were grown in wells B2-B11 and E2-E11 on the same plate. Except for the galactose and low glucose conditions, all media contained 2% dextrose (BD, VWR catalog #90000-904), 0.67% YNB with nitrogen (Sunrise Science, catalog #1501-500), and 0.2% SC (Sunrise Science, catalog #1300-030). The galactose condition contained 2% galactose (Sigma-Aldrich, #G0625) instead of dextrose, and the low glucose condition contained 0.07% dextrose. Other conditions contained the following in addition to SC-complete. Low salt: 0.2 M sodium chloride. Medium salt: 0.4 M sodium chloride. High salt: 0.8 M sodium chloride. pH 3: 0.02 M disodium phosphate, 0.04 M citric acid. pH 3.8: 0.0354 M disodium phosphate, 0.032 M citric acid. pH 6: 0.0642 M disodium phosphate, 0.0179 M citric acid. pH 7.3: 0.0936 M disodium phosphate, 0.00032 M citric acid. Buffered media were filter sterilized; all other media were autoclaved.

All populations were grown at 30°C, except for the high temperature lines (37°C) and the low temperature lines, which were grown at room temperature (21 \pm 0.5°C). In the SC, high temperature, medium salt, low glucose, pH 3, pH 3.8, and pH 6 conditions, dilutions were carried out once every 24 hours. In the galactose, low temperature, and

high salt conditions, dilutions were carried out every 36 hours. All dilutions were carried out on a Biomek-FX pipetting robot (Beckman-Coulter). Before each transfer, cells were resuspended by shaking on a Titramax 100 orbital plate shaker at 1200 rpm for at least 1 minute. In the pH 7.3 condition, dilutions were carried out every 48 hours. At each transfer, all populations were diluted 1:512 except for the low glucose populations, which were diluted 1:64. This maintained a bottleneck size of about 10^4 cells in all conditions. Populations underwent approximately the following numbers of generations (doublings): SC, high temperature, medium salt: 820. Low glucose: 730. pH 3, pH 3.8, pH 6: 755. High salt, galactose, low temperature: 612. Every 7 transfers, populations were mixed with glycerol to final concentration 25% (w/v) and stored at -80°C . Each 96-well plate contained blank wells; no contamination of blank wells was observed during the evolution. Over the course of evolution, 7 populations were lost due to pipetting errors, leaving 213 evolved lines.

To pick clones for further analysis, each final population was streaked onto SC-complete with 2% agar. One colony per population was picked, grown in 128 μl of SC at 30°C , mixed with 25% (w/v) glycerol, and stored at -80°C .

Competitive fitness assays

We conducted flow-cytometry-based competitive fitness assays against yGIL104-cit, a fluorescently-labeled derivative of the common ancestor, yGIL104. To construct the fluorescent reference strain, we amplified the HIS3MX6-ymCitrineM233I construct from genomic DNA of strain yJHK111 (courtesy of Melanie Muller, John Koschwanez, and Andrew Murray, Department of Molecular and cellular Biology, Harvard University) using primers oGW137 and oGW138 and integrating it into the *his3* locus. The fitness effect of the fluorescent marker is less than 1% in all environments (Supplementary Fig. 5).

Fitness assays were conducted as has been described previously [65,66]. Briefly, we grew all test strains and the reference strain from frozen stock in SC at 30°C . After 24 hours, we diluted all lines into the assay environment for one growth cycle of preconditioning. We then mixed the reference strain and the test strains 50/50. We monitored the relative numbers of the reference and test strain over three days in co-culture. We measured fitness as $s = \frac{1}{\tau} \ln\left(\frac{n_{ft} n_{ir}}{n_{fr} n_{it}}\right)$ where τ is the number of generations between timepoints, n_{it} is the count of the test strain at the initial timepoint, n_{ft} is the count of the test strain at the final timepoint, and n_{fr} , n_{ir} are the counts for the reference. Fitness gains and losses are reported per 700 generations of evolution.

Library preparation and whole-genome sequencing

Libraries were prepared for sequencing as has been described previously [67]. Briefly, genomic DNA was extracted from each of the 213 clones using the PureLink Pro 96 Genomic Purification Kit (Life Technologies catalog #K1821-04A) and quantified using the Qubit platform. The multiplexed sequencing library for the Illumina platform was prepared using the Nextera kit (Illumina catalog #FC-121-1031 and #FC-121-1012) and a modified version of the Illumina-recommended protocol [67]. Libraries were sequenced on a Nextera Hi-seq 2500 in rapid-run mode with paired-end, 150 bp reads.

Nucleic acid staining for ploidy

Clones were grown to saturation in YPD (2% dextrose, 2% peptone, 1% yeast extract). Saturated cultures were diluted 1:10 into 120 μl of sterile water in a 96-well plate. The plate was centrifuged, and cultures were resuspended in 50 μl of fresh water. 100 μl of

ethanol was added to each well, and the wells were mixed slowly. Plates were incubated for one hour at room temperature, or overnight at 4°C. Cells were centrifuged, ethanol solution removed, and 65 μ l RNAase solution added (2 mg/mL RNAase in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, plus 15 mM NaCl). Samples were incubated at 37°C for 2 hours. To stain, 65 μ l of 300 nM SYTOX green (ThermoFisher, S-34860) in 10 mM Tris-HCl was added to each well, for a final volume of 130 μ l. Plates were incubated at room temperature, in foil, for 20 minutes.

Fluorescence was measured via flow cytometry on a Fortessa analyzer (FITC channel). Fluorescence peaks were compared to known haploid and diploid controls to score ploidy. For 19/213 clones we observed smeared peaks intermediate between the haploid and diploid peaks; we called these clones as undetermined and included them with the haploids in analysis.

SNP and indel identification

We called SNPs and small indels as described previously [68], with the following two modifications. First, we aligned reads to a custom W303 reference genome [69]. Second, for clones called as diploid via staining, we called mutations as heterozygous if they occurred at frequencies between 0.4 and 0.8, and homozygous otherwise. We called mutations in all other clones if they occurred at a frequency of at least 0.8. We included both heterozygous and homozygous mutations in subsequent analyses.

For 95.4% (1925) of the mutations that we called, the mutation was found in one clone (i.e. the mutation was unique at the nucleotide level). The remaining 4.6% (88) of mutations were found in two or more clones. These mutations may have originated from standing genetic variation in the starting strain, and thus we excluded them from our analysis of *de novo* mutations.

Analysis of genetic parallelism

To test for parallelism at the gene level, we redistributed the observed nonsynonymous mutations across the genes in the yeast genome, under a multinomial distribution with probabilities proportional to the gene lengths. We determined that genes with four nonsynonymous mutations across the experiment, or two nonsynonymous mutations within one evolution condition, were enriched (Supplementary Fig. 3). To divide these genes into categories, we first classified genes as belonging to the Ras pathway based on *de novo* mutations in the same pathway found in previous studies [49,69]. We classified the remainder of the genes using GO-SLIM ‘biological process’ analysis, placing genes into GO-SLIM categories in order of the process enrichment score.

To test for associations between individual multi-hit genes and home environments, we redistributed the observed mutations in each gene across environments, preserving the number of mutations per gene and the number of mutations per environment, but ignoring which mutations occurred in which clones. We calculated the nominal P-value by comparing the maximum number of hits to a particular gene in any environment in the permuted and original data. To correct for multiple testing, we multiplied the obtained nominal P-value by the total number of genes (Bonferroni correction).

We used a mutual-information based test statistic to test for overall association between the evolution environments and mutated genes. We defined the mutual information as:

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \sum_{j=1}^m (p_{ij} \log_2 \frac{p_{ij}}{p_j} + (1 - p_{ij}) \log_2 \frac{(1 - p_{ij})}{1 - p_j}), \quad (1)$$

where m is the number of significant genes, n is the number of evolution environments, p_{ij} is the probability of a clone from environment i having a mutation in gene j , p_j is

the probability of any clone having a mutation in gene j , and p_i is the proportion of clones evolved in environment i . By convention $p_{ij} \log_2(p_{ij}) = 0$ if $p_{ij} = 0$, and probabilities were estimated based on the observed frequencies of the events. We determined significance by comparing M to the null distribution under permutation, preserving the number of mutations per gene and the number of mutations per environment. For the null distribution, M was .67 (.62, .73), whereas for the data M was 1.15. Code used for analysis and figure generation is available at: <https://github.com/erjerison/pleiotropy>. The number of sequenced clones from each environment was: SC (19), High Salt (20), High Temp (18), Low Glu (17), Gal (18), Low Temp (18), pH 3 (17), pH 7.3 (18), pH 6 (19), pH 3.8 (15), Med Salt (19).

t-SNE and clustering analysis

We used the `sklearn.manifold.t-SNE` class in the Python package `scikit-learn` 0.2, with 2 dimensions and perplexity 30, to project the 8-dimensional fitness vectors into a 2-dimensional t-SNE space. We then used the `sklearn.cluster.KMeans` class to perform k-means clustering with $k=2$ in the t-SNE space. We used this cluster assignment to call V^+ and V^- phenotypes. These clusters correspond to those identifiable visually in Fig. 2. The number of clones from each diagnostic environment was: SC (19), High Salt (20), High Temp (20), Low Glu (20), Gal (19), Low Temp (19), pH 3 (18), pH 7.3 (20).

Specialization and competitiveness summary statistics

To assess the degree of specialization of a clone, we counted the number of non-home environments where its fitness relative to the ancestor was 2 SEM below zero. Fig. 1 (left bar chart) shows the proportion of such conditions averaged over all clones from the same home environment. To assess the competitiveness of “resident” clones in their home environment relative to clones evolved elsewhere, we estimated the proportion of all clones evolved in other conditions with fitness lower than a randomly-chosen resident clone (Fig. 1, bottom bar chart). For both statistics, we measured 95% confidence intervals based on a bootstrap over clones in each evolution environment.

Nested linear models for analysis of variance

To evaluate the fraction of the variance in pleiotropic effects attributable to the evolution condition vs. stochastic evolutionary effects, we fit the following series of nested linear models for each of the diagnostic measurement conditions:

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j \beta_j E_{ij} + \epsilon_i, \quad (2)$$

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j \beta_j E_{ij} + \gamma V_i + \epsilon_i, \quad (3)$$

where Y_i is the fitness of clone i ; $E_{ij} = 1$ if clone i evolved in environment j , 0 otherwise; $V_i = 1$ if clone i is V^+ , 0 otherwise. Note that we excluded clones from their own home environment to focus on pleiotropic effects, as opposed to adaptation to the home condition. Note also that we restricted analysis to clones measured in all eight diagnostic conditions to maintain comparability between environments. We fit the models using the `sklearn.linear_model.LinearRegression` class in Python, and used the `score` method of this class to calculate R^2 .

Fig. 2c shows the partitioning of the total variance in Y_i as follows. We measured the variance due to measurement error as:

$$V = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{V_i}{n_r} \quad (4)$$

where n is the number of clones, n_r is the number of replicate measurements of each clone, and V_i is the estimate of the variance across replicate fitness measurements of clone i . We attribute the variance explained by model 2 to “home environment”. We attribute the variance not explained by model 2 but explained by model 3 to V^+/V^- phenotype. We attributed leftover variance not accounted for by model 3 and not attributed to measurement noise to additional stochastic effects, which we label ‘other pleiotropy.’

To evaluate the contributions of most common genetic factors to the pleiotropic effects (shown in Fig. 4b), we carried out an analogous analysis of variance using the following series of nested linear models:

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j m_j M_{ij} + \epsilon_i, \quad (5)$$

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j m_j M_{ij} + \delta D_i + \epsilon_i, \quad (6)$$

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j m_j M_{ij} + \delta D_i + \gamma V_i + \epsilon_i, \quad (7)$$

$$Y_i = \alpha + \sum_j m_j M_{ij} + \delta D_i + \gamma V_i + \sum_j \beta_j E_{ij} + \epsilon_i \quad (8)$$

where $M_{ij} = 1$ if clone i has at least one mutation in biological process j out of 10 biological processes shown in Fig. 4a (other than “Other”); $D_i = 1$ if clone i is a diploid, 0 otherwise.

dsRNA extraction and gel electrophoresis

Yeast cell pellets from 1.5 mL of an overnight culture were re-suspended in 50 μ L of a zymolyase based enzymatic digest to lyse the cells (5mg/mL Zymolyase 20T, 100mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.4, 10mM EDTA, 1M Sorbitol, 20mM DTT, 200 μ g/mL RNase A, 0.5% 3-(N,N-Dimethylmyristylammonio)propanesulfonate and incubated at 37°C for an hour. The spheroplasted cells were then lysed with 200 μ L of lysis/binding buffer (4.125M guanidine thiocyanate, 25% isopropanol, 100mM MES pH 5). After a brief vortexing, the clear solution was passed through a standard silica column for DNA purification, and washed two times with 600 μ L of wash buffer (20mM Tris-Cl pH 7.4, 80% ethanol). After drying the column, the DNA and dsRNA was eluted with a low salt elution buffer (10mM Tris-Cl pH 8.5).

Total extracted genomic material was subjected to standard gel electrophoresis (1% agarose gel, TAE running buffer, stained with 0.5 μ g/mL ethidium bromide).

Curing the killer virus

Strain yGIL104-cit-V- was constructed from yGIL104-cit as follows. yGIL104-cit was grown from frozen stock overnight in YPD. Saturated culture was diluted 1 : 10⁵ and 250 μ L was plated on YPD. Plates were incubated at 39°C for 72 hours. Colonies were picked and the presence of the virus dsRNA band was tested as described above. 2/9 colonies tested displayed the helper virus band but no killer virus band; 7/9 retained

both bands. The two V^- colonies were restreaked and a clone from each was grown in YPD, mixed with glycerol to 25%, and stored at -80°C . Competitive fitness assays were performed with both clones against yGIL104, at several starting frequencies, in SC, 21°C , 37°C , and high salt. Fitness of the two clones at each frequency and condition were the same, so one clone was designated yGIL104-cit- V^- and was used as a cured reference in all subsequent assays.

We used fitness relative to the original and cured ancestor to classify clones from the 3 environments not included in the diagnostic panel as either V^+ or V^- (Supplementary Fig. 4). We also note that one clone (High Temp clone 20) was lost from the cured reference fitness assay.

Determining the cause of the Low Temp fitness defect: additional experiments

We performed several types of experiments to determine the genetic basis of the large observed fitness defects in the Low Temp environment. First, we reconstructed all six nonsynonymous mutations called in one evolved clone with the fitness defect on the ancestral background. The strain background used for reconstructions was yERJ3, which was constructed from yGIL104 by amplifying the HIS3 construct from yGIL104-cit using primers 3 and 4, which target the URA3 locus. This construct was transformed into yGIL104 using standard techniques [70], plated on CSM-His dropout media, and replica plated to 5FoA and CSM-Ura to verify the His⁺/Ura⁻ phenotype.

We used the delitto-perfetto method for the reconstructions [71]. Briefly, we amplified a URA3-Hph construct from plasmid pMJM37 (provided by Michael J. McDonald) using primers 6-17, which target the yeast genome 5 bp upstream and downstream of the mutations of interest. We selected on CSM-Ura and hygromycin-B, picked two clones, and transformed each with two complementary 90 bp repair oligos (18-29), that contain the mutation of interest and the flanking genic region. We selected on 5FoA and replica plated to hygromycin to determine the phenotype. We used primers 30-41 to amplify the locus in the reconstructed line for Sanger sequencing.

We performed fitness assays of yERJ3, the reconstructed lines, and the knockout intermediates, against yGIL104-cit in the SC, 37°C , 21°C , and high salt conditions. For one mutation, in the gene CUE4, one reconstruction replicate displayed a significant fitness defect across all conditions, while the other replicate did not. We discarded this clone as a likely reconstruction artifact.

We note that the reconstruction background, yERJ3, had an apparent fitness defect of a few percent in the high salt environment, potentially due to the engineered URA3 auxotrophy. We report fitness of reconstructed lines relative to yERJ3 in Supplementary Fig. 1. These mutations account for the fitness advantage in the clone's home environment (High Salt), but none of them carries the characteristic large fitness defect at Low Temp.

To determine whether the defect was caused by a mutation that we did not detect during sequencing, we back-crossed three evolved clones that displayed the defect to the common ancestor and picked four-spore complete tetrads. The strain yERJ10 (genotype *MAT α* yGIL104 *ura3::HIS3*) was constructed from yGIL104 as described above for yERJ3. The mating type was switched using an inducible Gal::HO plasmid, pAN216a-URA3-GAL::HO-Ste2pr::SkHIS3-Ste3pr::LEU2. The strain was transformed with the plasmid and plated on CSM-Ura dropout media. A colony was grown in SC-Ura dropout media with 2% sucrose overnight. 1 mL of culture was centrifuged and resuspended in SG-Ura dropout media (2% galactose) to induce. Cells were plated on SC-Leu dropout media directly after transfer to SG-Ura and 60 minutes later colonies were streaked on SD-Complete + 5FoA to eliminate the plasmid. *MAT α* versions of

evolved lines were constructed in the same way. After mating, diploids were selected on CSM-Ura-His dropout media. Diploids were sporulated in Spo++ media [70] plus 0.5% dextrose at 21°C for 3-5 days. Tetrads were dissected according to standard yeast genetics methods [70]. Four-spore complete tetrads from each mating were grown in SC, mixed with glycerol to final concentration 25%, and frozen at -80°C. Fitness assays of four-spore complete tetrads from each mating, competed against yGIL104-cit, were conducted as described above at 21°C. We also constructed a mitochondrial-cured version of the reference and of the evolved lines; the fitness of spores from crosses involving these lines were not distinguishable from the corresponding $\rho+$ crosses, so spore fitness were pooled.

In Supplementary Fig. 2, we show data from a representative one of these crosses: yERJ10 *MAT α* \times High Salt-17 *MAT α* (backcross) and High Salt-17 *MAT α* \times High Salt-17 *MAT α* (control cross). We observed that the fitness defect did not segregate 2:2, as would be expected for a Mendelian trait; rather, very few of the segregants from the back-cross displayed the defect. This observation is consistent with a cytoplasmic genetic element (the virus) that is carried by one parent (the ancestor) but not the other (evolved line), and is usually re-inherited by segregants upon mating.

Given that the defect did not appear to be caused by a nuclear genetic mutation, we next addressed whether there was evidence of a direct interaction between strains during competition. To do so, we asked whether the size of the fitness defect depended on the frequency of the competitors. In Extended Data Fig. 2, we show an example of such a competition experiment, between the putative virus-carrying reference and the cured ancestor at Low Temp. The strong frequency-dependence of the fitness defect is consistent with secretion of a toxin by one competitor: the strain lacking the virus (and thus the antitoxin) is at a larger disadvantage when the virus-carrying competitor is at high frequency.

Together with the direct observation of the virus band through gel electrophoresis and the competition of all of the evolved lines against the cured ancestor, as described in the main text, these observations support the conclusion that loss of the killer virus particle in some evolved lines caused the large fitness defect at Low Temp.

Data availability

Data used in Figs. 1, 2, 5 is provided in Supplementary Table S1. Data used in Fig. 3 is provided in Supplementary Table S2. Data used in Fig. 4 is provided in Supplementary Tables S1 and S3. Code used for analysis and figure generation is available at <https://github.com/erjerison/pleiotropy>. The sequences reported in this paper have been deposited in the BioProject database (accession number PRJNA554163). All strains are available from the corresponding authors upon request.

Author contributions

EJ, MMD, SK designed the research. EJ, SK, and ANNB carried out experiments and analysis. EJ, MMD, SK wrote the paper.

Competing interest statement

The authors declare no competing interests.

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Table 1. Environmental conditions used in this study

Environment	Evolution Condition	Measurement Panels				Formulation
		Diagnostic	Salt	pH	Temp	
SC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SC + 2% glu, 30°C
Low Salt	✓		✓			SC + 2% glu + 0.2 M NaCl, 30°C
Med Salt			✓			SC + 2% glu + 0.4 M NaCl, 30°C
High Salt	✓	✓	✓			SC + 2% glu + 0.8 M NaCl, 30°C
pH 3	✓	✓		✓		SC + 2% glu, buffered to pH 3, 30°C
pH 3.8	✓			✓		SC + 2% glu, buffered to pH 3.8, 30°C
pH 6	✓			✓		SC + 2% glu, buffered to pH 6, 30°C
pH 7.3	✓	✓		✓		SC + 2% glu, buffered to pH 7.3, 30°C
Low Temp	✓	✓			✓	SC + 2% glu, 21°C
Med Temp					✓	SC + 2% glu, 34°C
High Temp	✓	✓			✓	SC + 2% glu, 37°C
Low Glu	✓	✓				SC + 0.07% glu, 30°C
Gal	✓	✓				SC + 2% gal, 30°C

SC is synthetic complete medium; glu is glucose; gal is galactose.

Fig 1. Fitness gains and losses in diagnostic conditions after evolution in each condition. Each square shows the median fitness gain or loss in a measurement environment (columns) across all populations evolved in a given home environment (rows) for ~ 700 generations. The left bar graph shows the average degree of specialization after evolution in each home environment. The degree of specialization is defined as the average proportion of measurement environments where clones lost fitness relative to the ancestor. The bar graph on the bottom shows the competitiveness of a “resident” clone in its home environment against invasions from other environments. The competitiveness is defined as the average proportion of evolved clones from other environments that are less fit than a randomly chosen resident clone. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals on a bootstrap over clones in each evolution condition.

Fig 2. Environmental and stochastic determinants of pleiotropic profiles. **a**, t-SNE dimensional reduction of the pleiotropic profiles. Each point represents a clone; the eight-dimensional vector of clone fitness across the eight conditions was projected into two dimensions using t-SNE. Clones are colored according to home environment. **b**, t-SNE projection as in panel a. Colors are assigned based on the t-SNE coordinates to establish visual correspondence between this projection and the full pleiotropic profiles shown in panel d. **c**, Proportion of the variance in clone fitness in each environment that is attributable to (in this order) home environment, V^+/V^- phenotype, other pleiotropy (unexplained variance), measurement noise. Clones are excluded from their own home environment. **d**, The pleiotropic profiles of clones from each home environment. Profiles are colored as in panel b. Error bars represent ± 1 SE on clone fitness.

Fig 3. V^- phenotype is caused by the loss of yeast killer virus. **a**, Gel electrophoresis of total DNA and dsRNA extracted from 15 clones. Anc is the common ancestor of the experiment; evolved clones 1 through 7 are from the V^+ cluster (Fig. 2b), i.e., without a fitness defect at 21°C; evolved clones 8 through 14 are from the V^- cluster, i.e., with a fitness defect at 21°C. The upper (~ 4 kb) band is consistent with the helper virus, and the lower (~ 2 kb) band is consistent with the killer virus. **b**, Fitness of all evolved clones relative to the ancestor and to the ancestor cured of the killer virus. Classification of clones into V^+ (blue) and V^- (red) is based on the t-SNE plot in Fig. 2b.

Fig 4. Mutations across evolution conditions and genetic determinants of pleiotropy. **a**, Genes with four or more nonsynonymous mutations across the experiment, or two or more within one home environment, organized into the Ras pathway and thereafter by GO slim process. Number in the parentheses next to each gene name indicates the total number of detected nonsynonymous mutations in that gene. Genes in bold are significantly associated with one home environment. **b**, Proportion of the variance in clone fitness in each environment attributable (in this order) to mutations in multi-hit genes; ploidy; V^+/V^- phenotype; home environment, beyond these previously listed factors; other pleiotropy (unexplained variance); measurement noise. Clones are excluded from their own home environment. Only clones evolved in diagnostic conditions are considered in this analysis, as in Fig. 2.

Fig 5. Specialization across salt (a, d, g), pH (b, e, h) and temperature (c, f, i) panels of environments. **a-c**, Average fitness of clones from each home environment (colors) across multiple test conditions (x -axis). Squares represent individual clone fitness. Note that in panel b, two measurements that fell below -10% are not displayed (one clone evolved at pH 6 and measured at pH 3.8, and one clone evolved at pH 7.3 and measured at pH 4.5). **d-f**, Fraction of clones from each home environment (colors) that gained fitness in each test condition (x -axis). Error bars represent ± 1 SE. **g-i**, Fraction of clones from each home environment (x -axis) that gained fitness across all test conditions in the panel. Error bars represent ± 1 SE.

Evolution environment









