

# In Memory of Sam

**Wilson**

Eukaryotic DNA Replication Fidelity  
by the B-Family DNA Polymerases

Thomas A. Kunkel, Ph.D.



# Persons Currently In My Group

Kasia Bebenek  
Jessica Williams  
Mercedes Arana  
Scott Lujan  
Sarah Marks  
Mahina Monsur

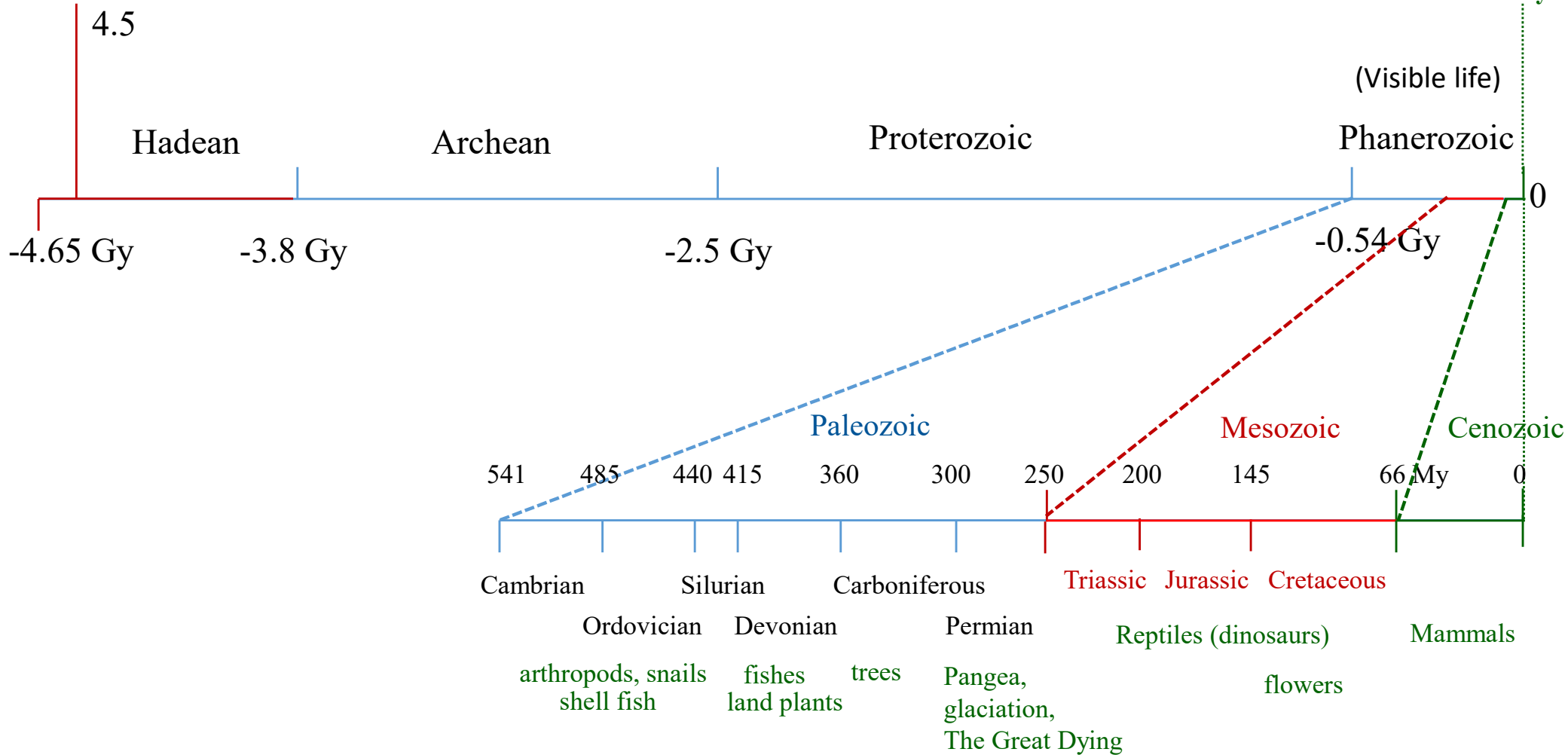
Postdoctoral Positions Currently  
Available

# A Time Line for Life on Earth

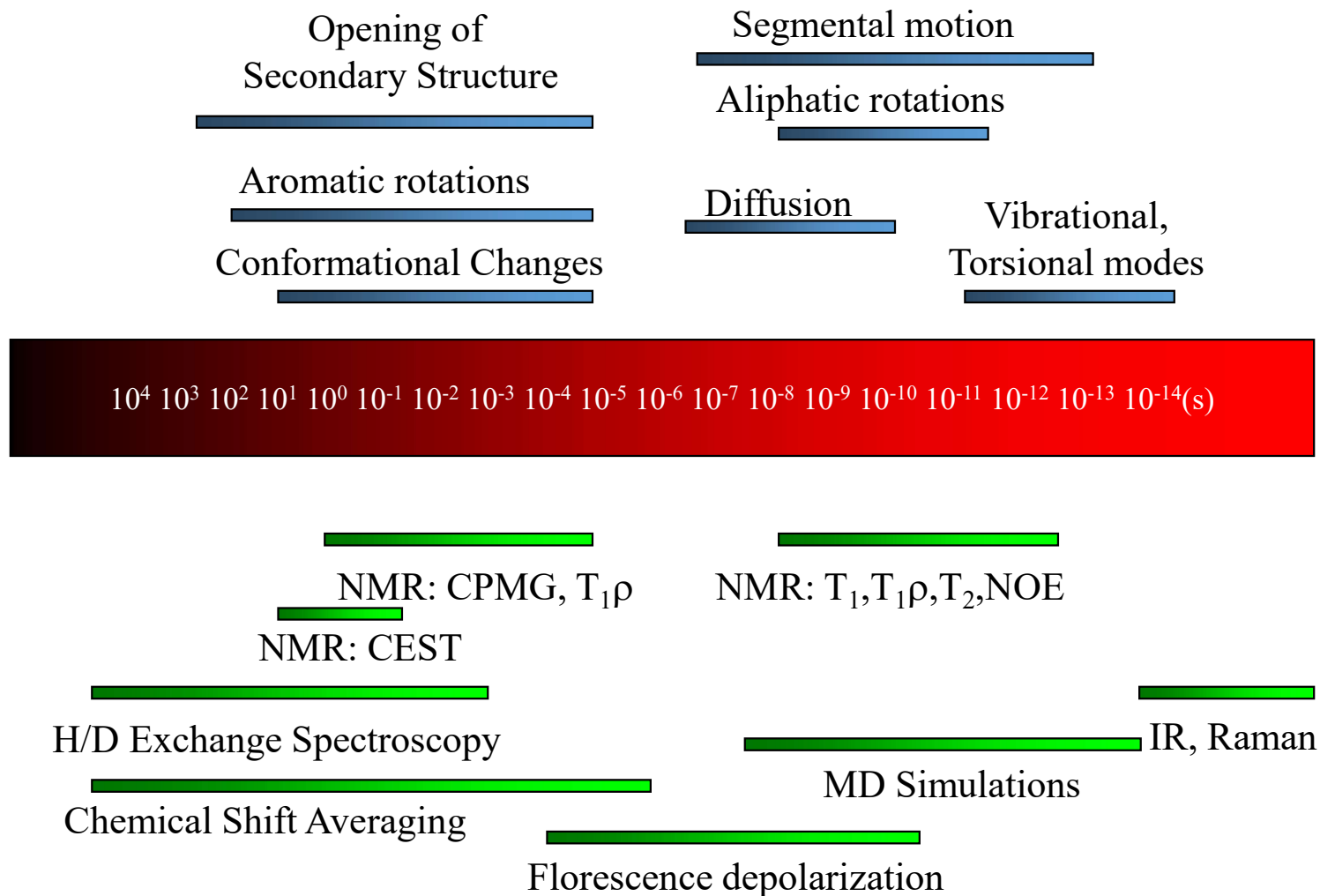


*H. sapiens*  
0.2 My

Formation of Moon



# Protein Dynamics - Macromolecular Motions



## Experimental Techniques

# Understanding DNA Replication Fidelity

2 Ångstroms to 2 Meters

$10^{-14}$  Seconds to > 4 Billion Years

Structural Biology

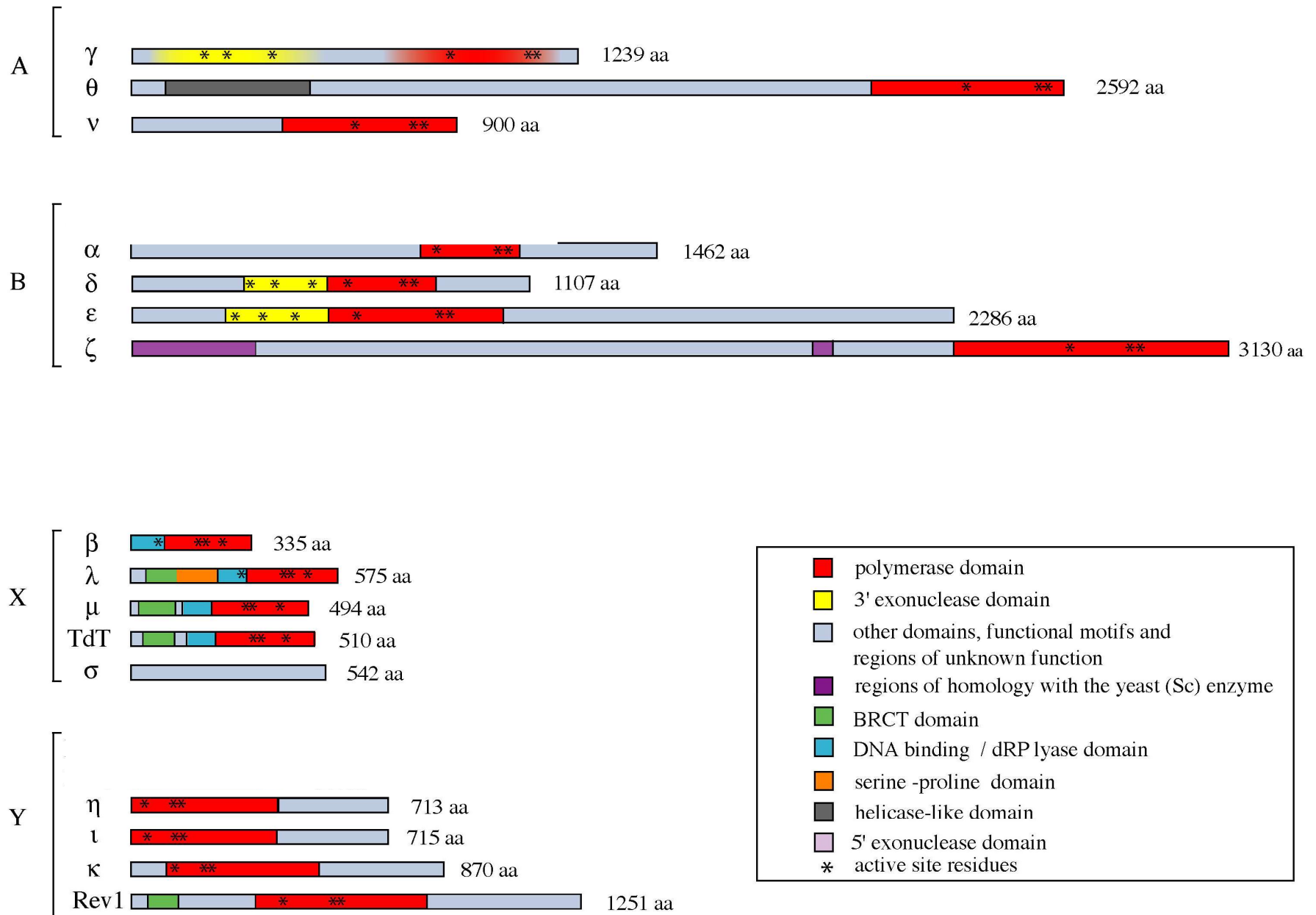
Biochemistry

Genetics

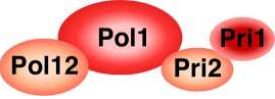
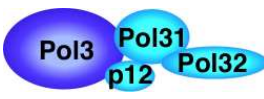
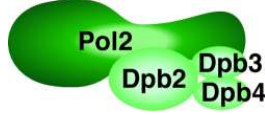
Genomics

# Catalytic Subunits of Human Pals in Four Families

Family



# Major DNA polymerases at the eukaryotic nuclear DNA replication fork

	Pol $\alpha$ -Primase	Pol $\delta$	Pol $\epsilon$
<b>Subunit organization</b>			
<b>Genes and subunit sizes</b>			
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	Pol1-p167 Pol12-p79 Pri1-p48 Pri2-p62	Pol3-p125 Pol31-p55 Pol32-p40 -	Pol2-p256 Dpb2-p78 Dpb3-p23 Dpb4-p22
<i>S. pombe</i>	Pol1-p159 Pol12-p64 Pri1-p52 Spp2-p53	Pol3-p124 Cdc1-p51 Cdc27-p42 Cdm1-p19	Pol2-p253 Dpb2-p67 Dpb3-p22 Dpb4-p24
Human	PolA1-p166 PolA2-p68 Prim1-p48 Prim2A-p58	PolD1-p124 PolD2-p51 PolD3-p66 PolD4-p12	PolE-p261 PolE2-p59 PolE3-p17 PolE4-p12
<b>Activity</b>	Polymerase Primase	Polymerase 3'-Exonuclease	Polymerase 3'-Exonuclease dsDNA binding
<b>Fidelity</b>	$10^{-4}$ - $10^{-5}$	$10^{-6}$ - $10^{-7}$	$10^{-6}$ - $10^{-7}$
<b>Function</b>	Initiation of replication Initiation of Okazaki fragments	Elongation and maturation of Okazaki fragments DNA repair Mutagenesis	Replisome assembly Leading strand synthesis Replication checkpoint

# Eukaryotic nuclear DNA replication fidelity depends on:

1. The concentrations of dNTPs and rNTPs
  - a. Absolute concentrations
  - b. Relative concentrations
2. The selectivity of DNA polymerases for
  - a. A correct, properly aligned dNTP
  - b. The correct sugar moiety
3. Proofreading *during* replication
  - a. Intrinsic proofreading
  - b. Extrinsic proofreading
4. Repair of errors *after* replication by
  - a. DNA Mismatch Repair
  - b. Ribonucleotide Excision Repair



# Number of DNA processing events that control replication fidelity in humans

Process  
cycle

Events/cell

Chain elongation on an open template 6,000,000,000

Okazaki fragment maturation 25,000,000

Ribonucleotide excision repair

Reasons why I am interested:

3,000,000

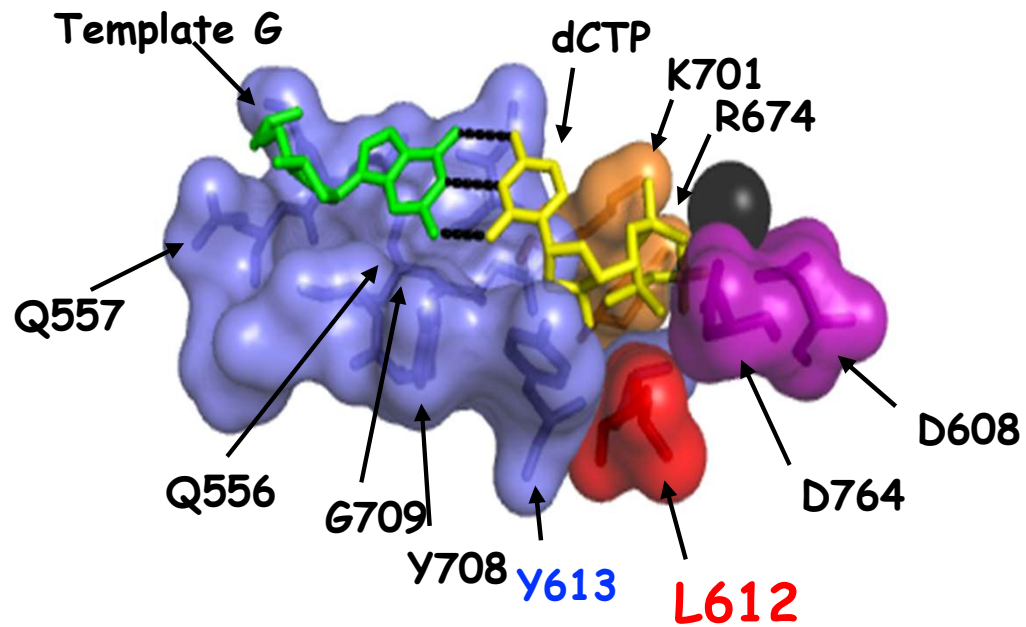
Responsible Mechanisms

Mismatch repair Connections to Human Health  $\leq 100$

Evolutionary Conservation

# Pol $\delta$ Binding Pocket

Swan *et al.*, NSMB 16: 979 (2009)



S.cer $\alpha$	863	M	D	F	N	S	L	Y	P	S	I	I	Q	E	F	N	877
S.cer $\delta$	607	L	D	F	N	S	L	Y	P	S	I	M	M	A	H	N	621
S.cer $\epsilon$	639	V	D	V	A	S	M	Y	P	N	I	M	T	T	N	R	653
S.cer $\zeta$	974	L	D	F	Q	S	L	Y	P	S	I	M	I	G	Y	N	988

# Whole Genome Mutation Rate Analysis of Eight Diploid Yeast Strains

## STRAINS

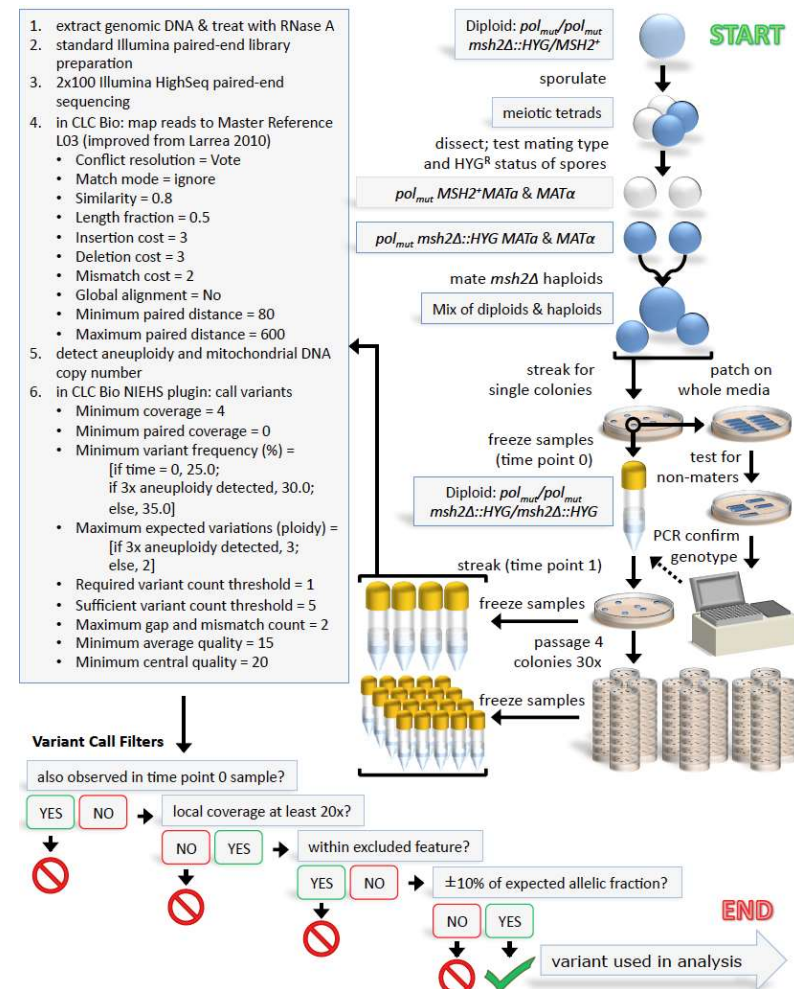
Wild type  $\pm$  MMR

Pol  $\epsilon$  - M644G  $\pm$  MMR

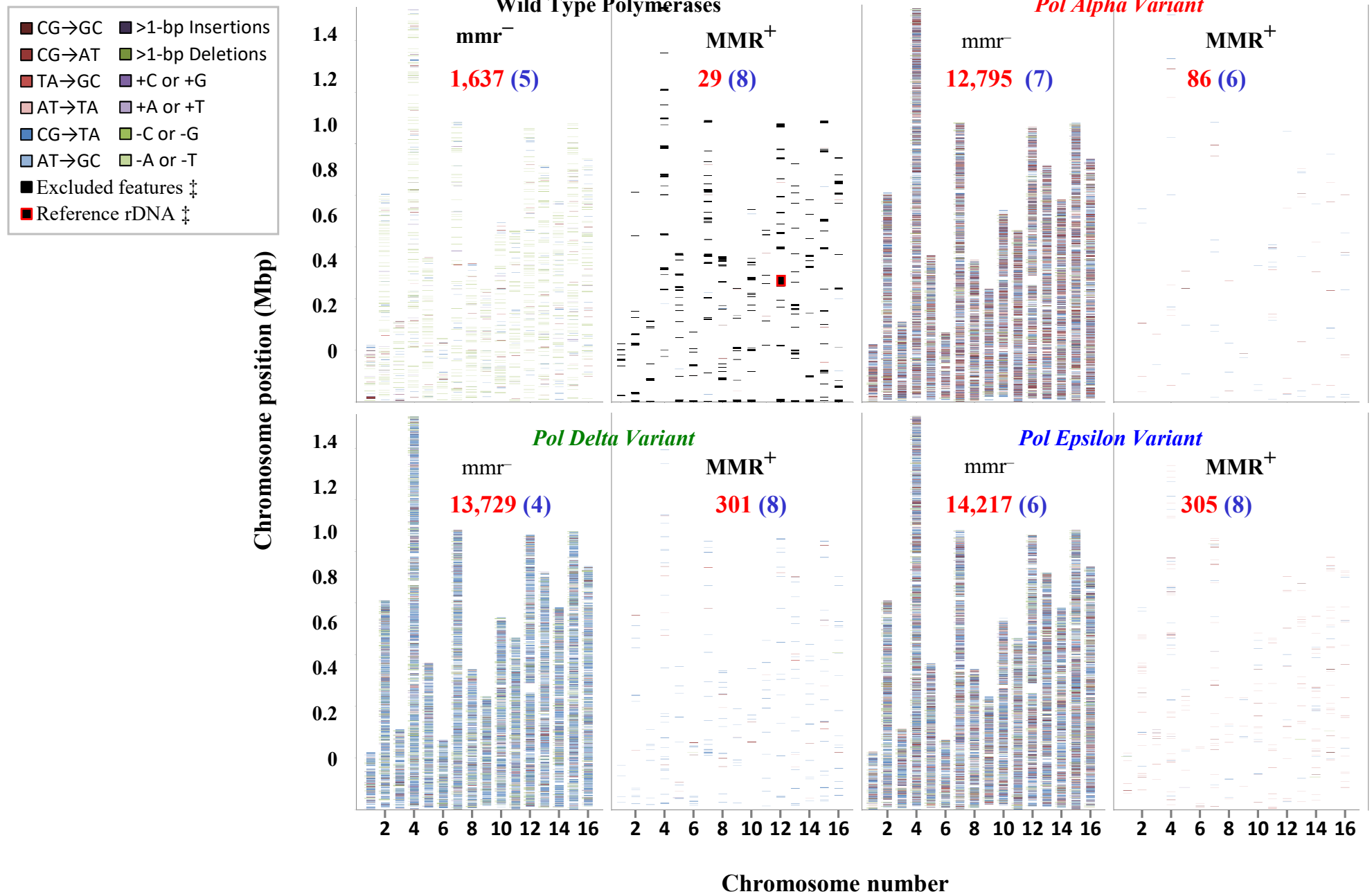
Pol  $\alpha$  - L868M  $\pm$  MMR

Pol  $\delta$  - L612M  $\pm$  MMR

## WGS PROTOCOL

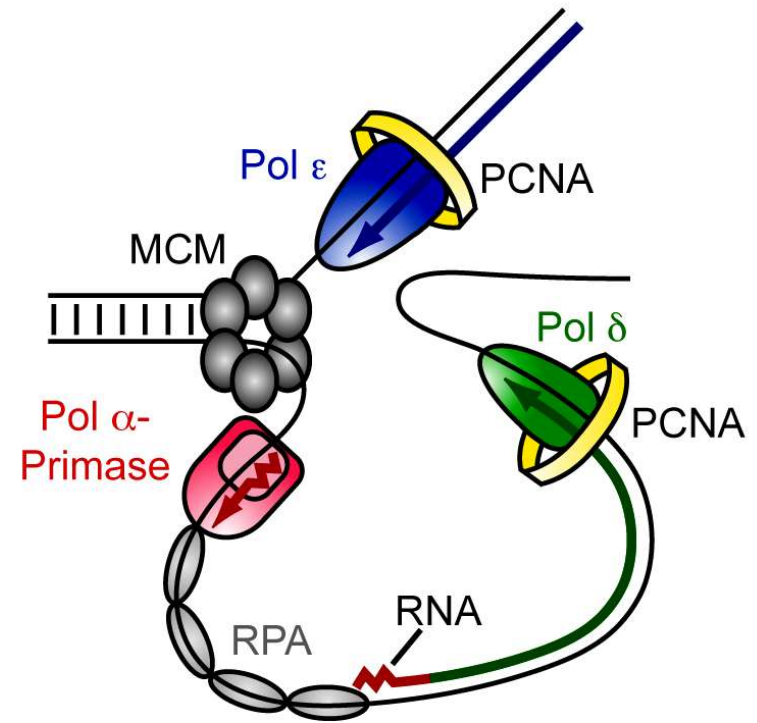
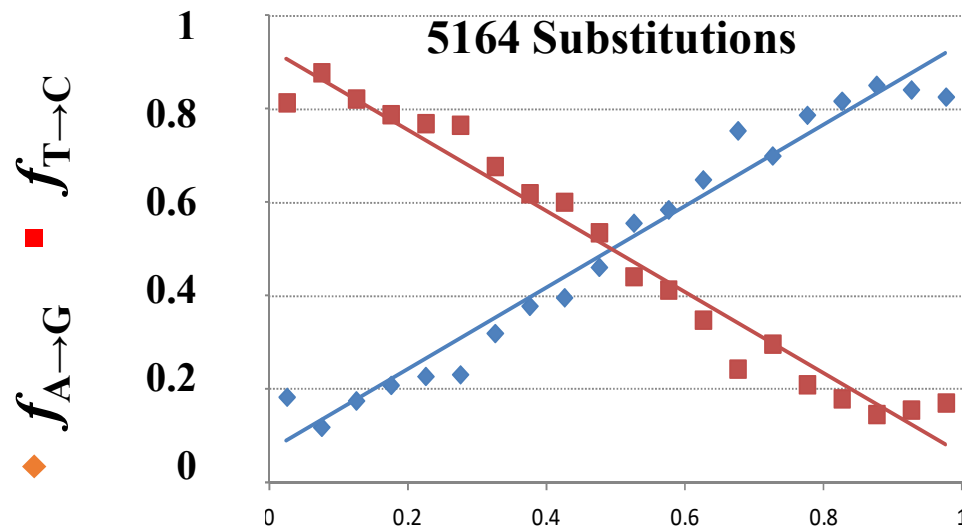
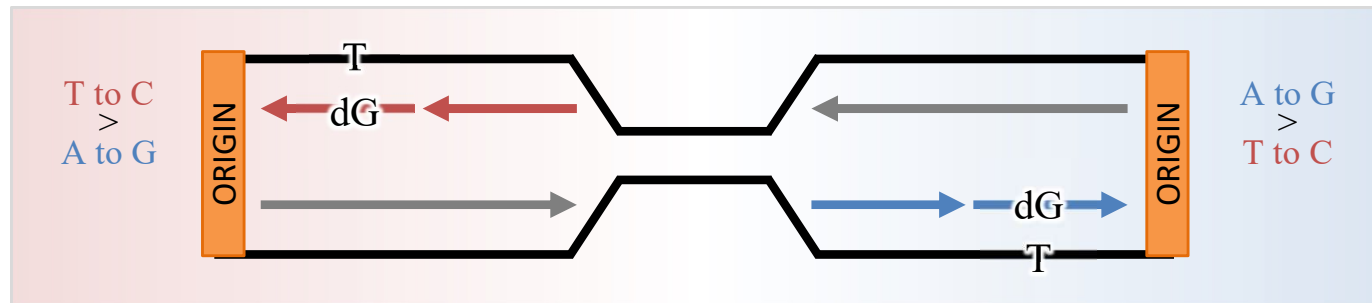


# Number & Distribution of Single Base Changes

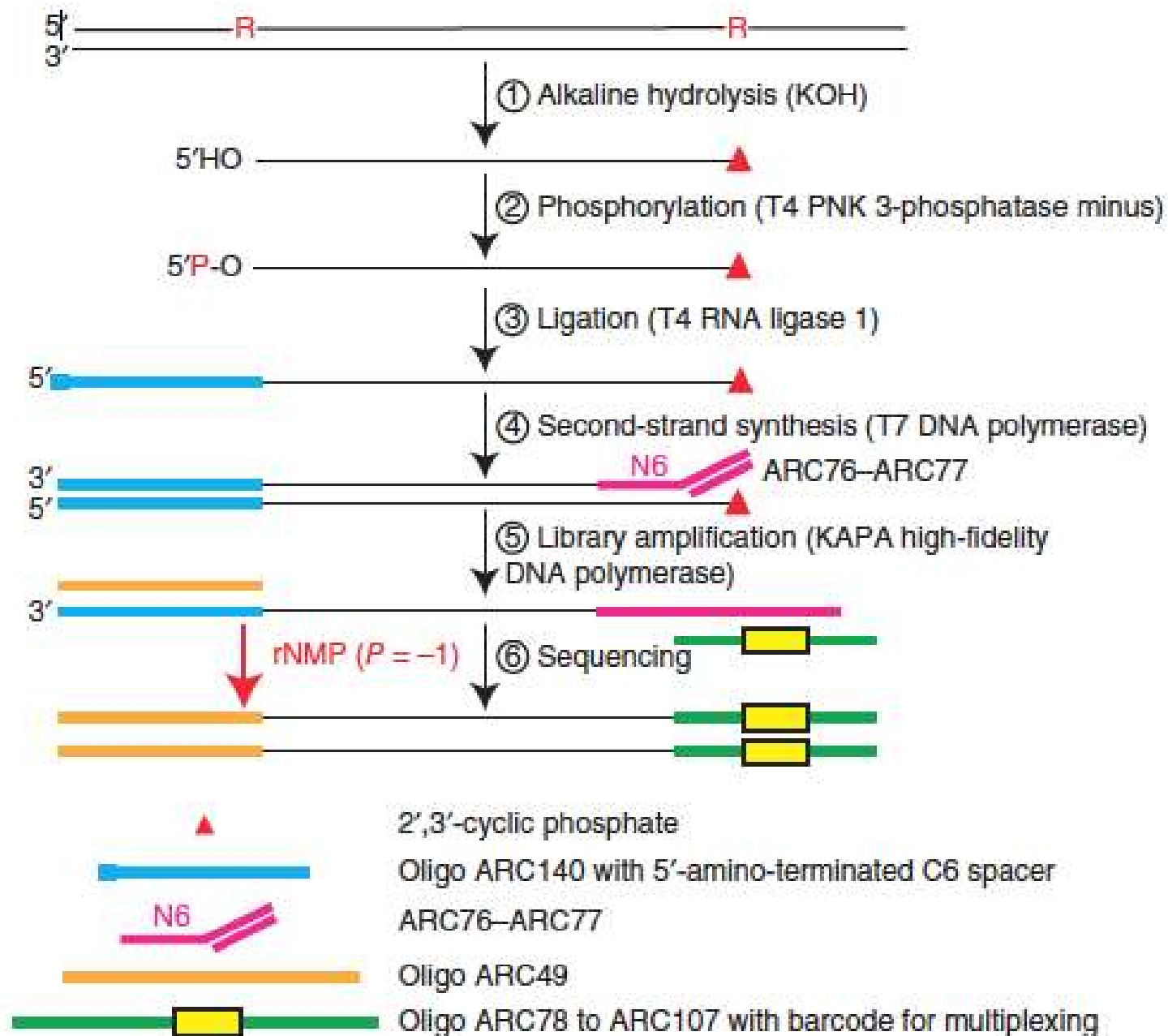


# Distribution of Substitutions Relative to Origins

L612M Pol  $\delta$   
*in vitro*  
 $T \cdot dG : A \cdot dC$   
 28 : 1

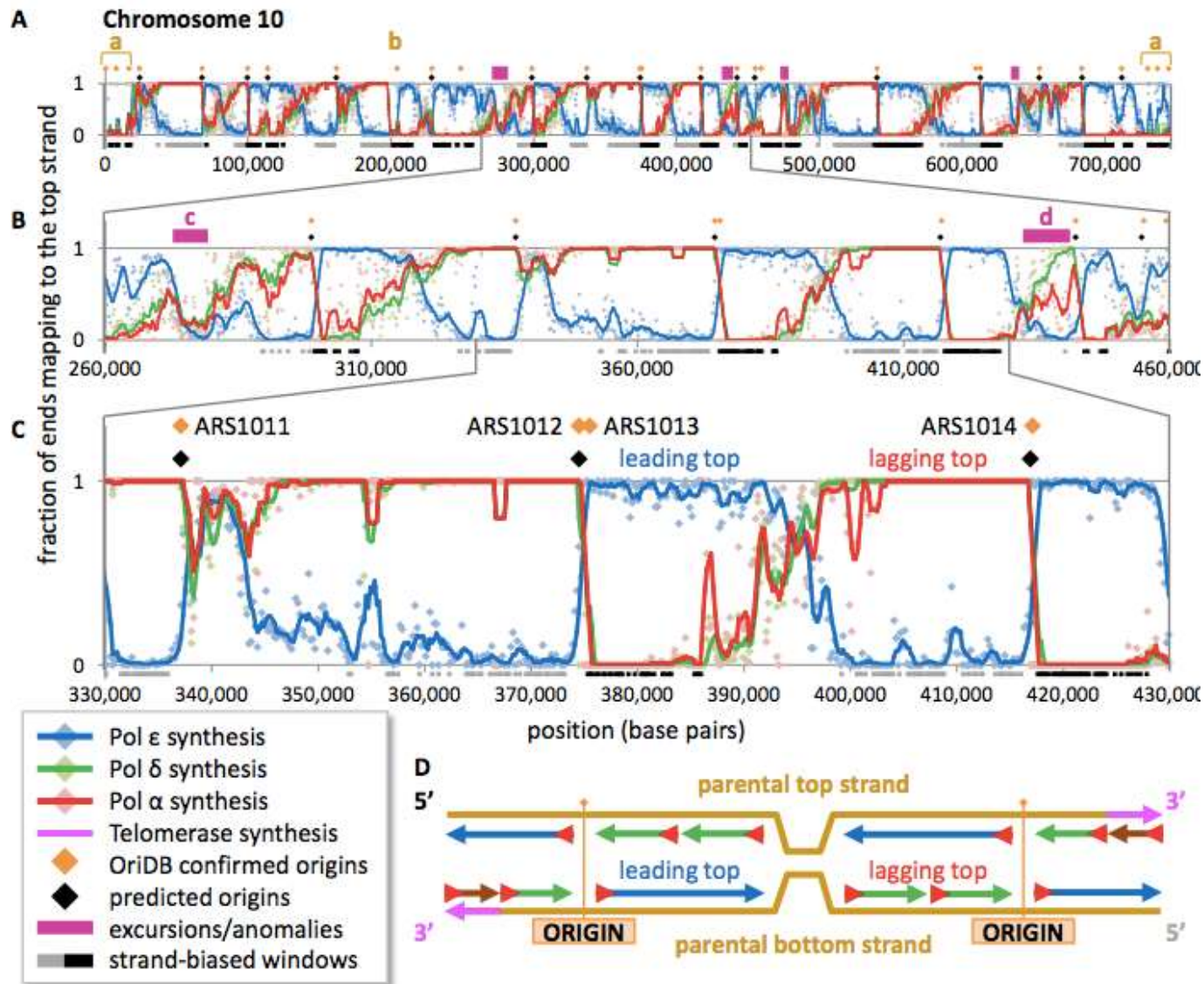


## (HydEn-Seq)





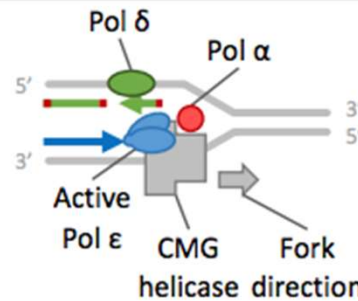
# HydEn-Seq Mapping of Ribonucleotides in RER-Deficient *S. cerevisiae* - 2015



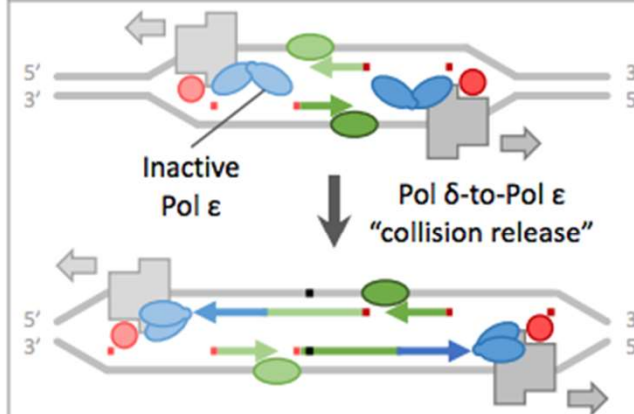
Indicates Roles of Replicases, Identifies Replication Origins

# Current Model

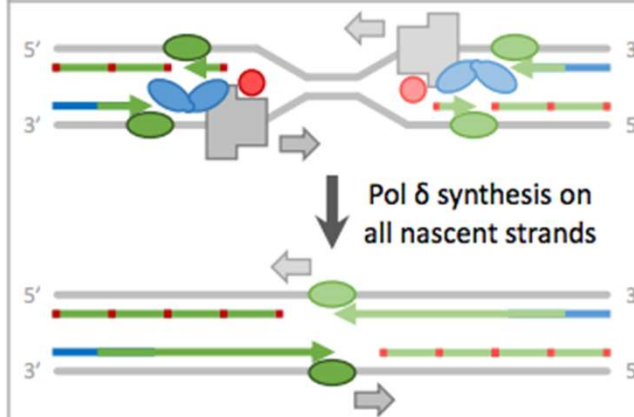
## a Replisome elements & canonical division of labor



## b Initiation: $\alpha \rightarrow \delta \rightarrow \epsilon$ handoff on leading strand



## c Termination: $\epsilon \rightarrow \delta$ handoff on leading strand †





1989 - 1990

Catherine Joyce, *J. Biological Chemistry*

Fred Perrino and Larry Loeb, *PNAS*

*Biochemical evidence* suggests that after a polymerase generates a mismatch, the mismatch can be removed by an exonuclease in a separate protein.

## **Intrinsic Proofreading**

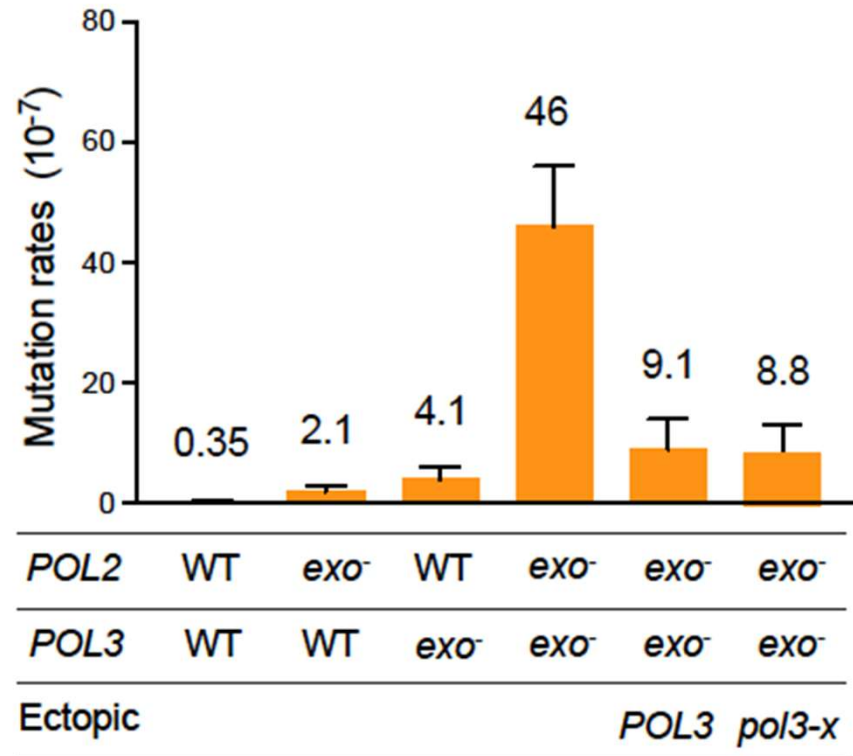
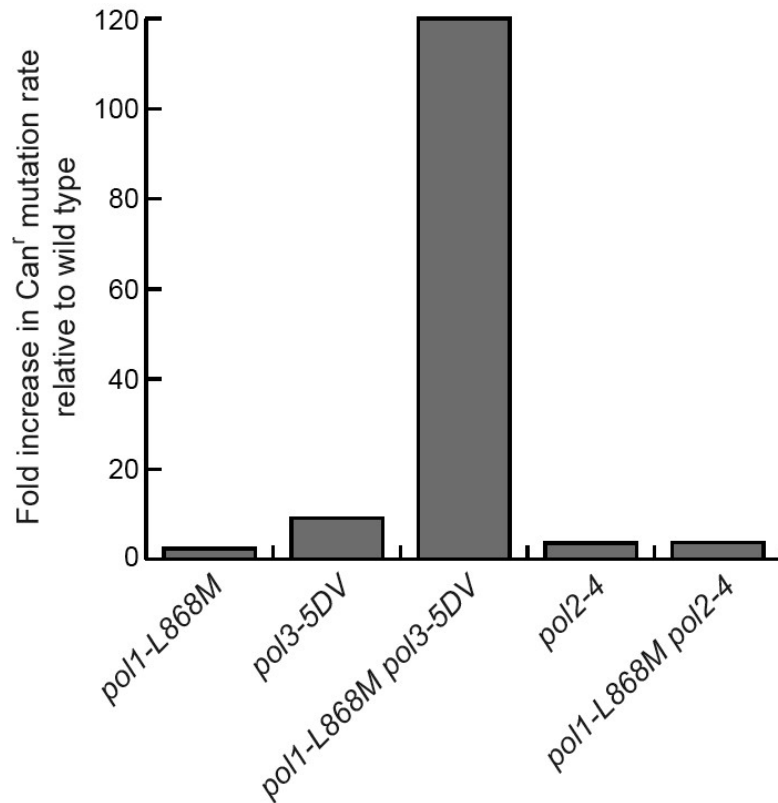
**A mismatch is made and is then removed  
without intervening dissociation of the polymerase**

## **Extrinsic Proofreading**

**A mismatch is made, the polymerase dissociates,  
and an enzyme then binds the mismatch in its  
exonuclease active site and removes it.**

# Evidence for extrinsic proofreading of replication errors by Pol $\delta$

Pavlov *et al.*, *Current Biology*, 2006; Zhou *et al.*, *Nature Structural Molecular Biology*, 2021

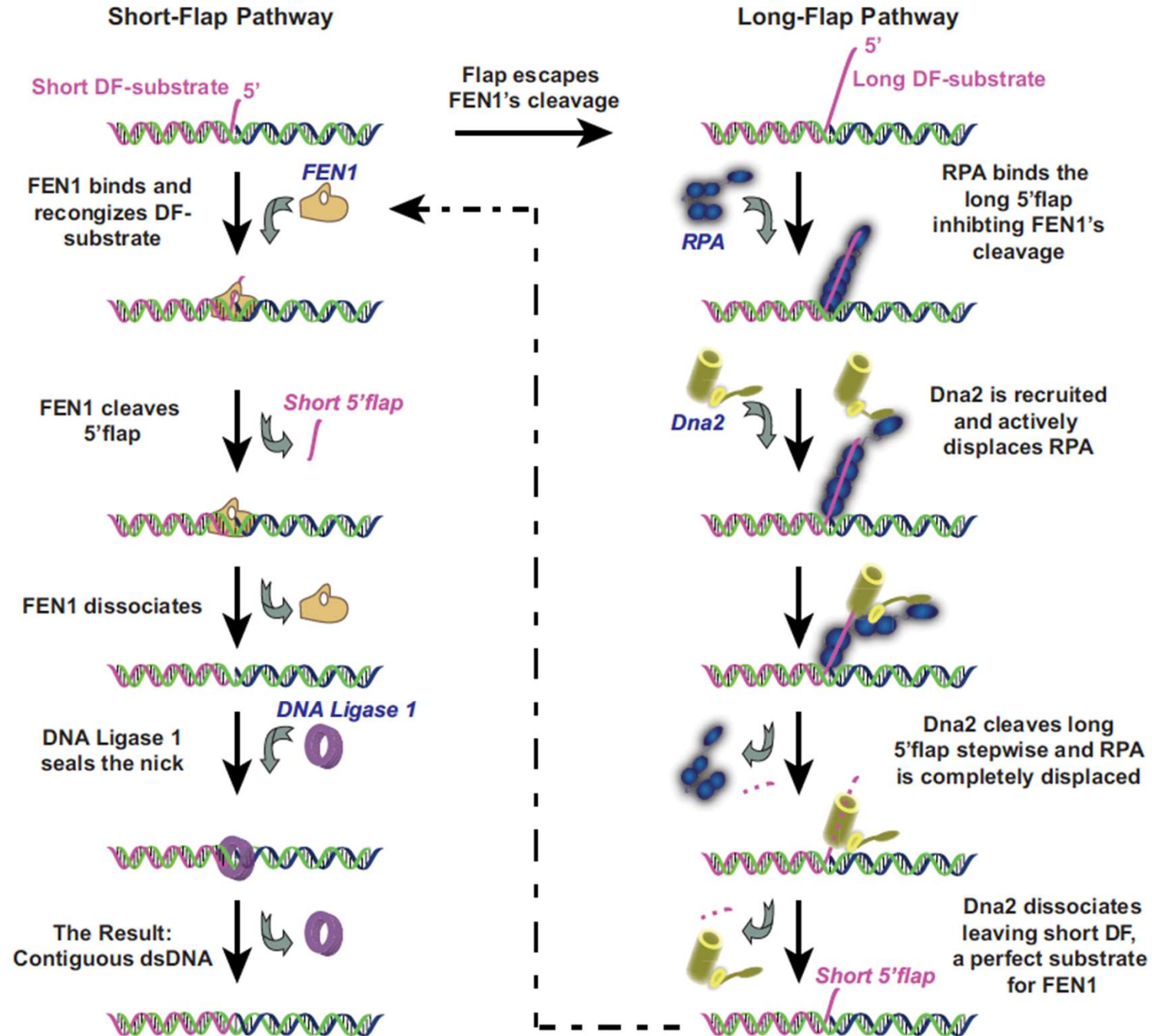


**These data are consistent with the hypothesis that Pol  $\delta$  can extrinsically proofread replication errors *in vivo*.**

# Extrinsic Proofreading By Pol $\delta$

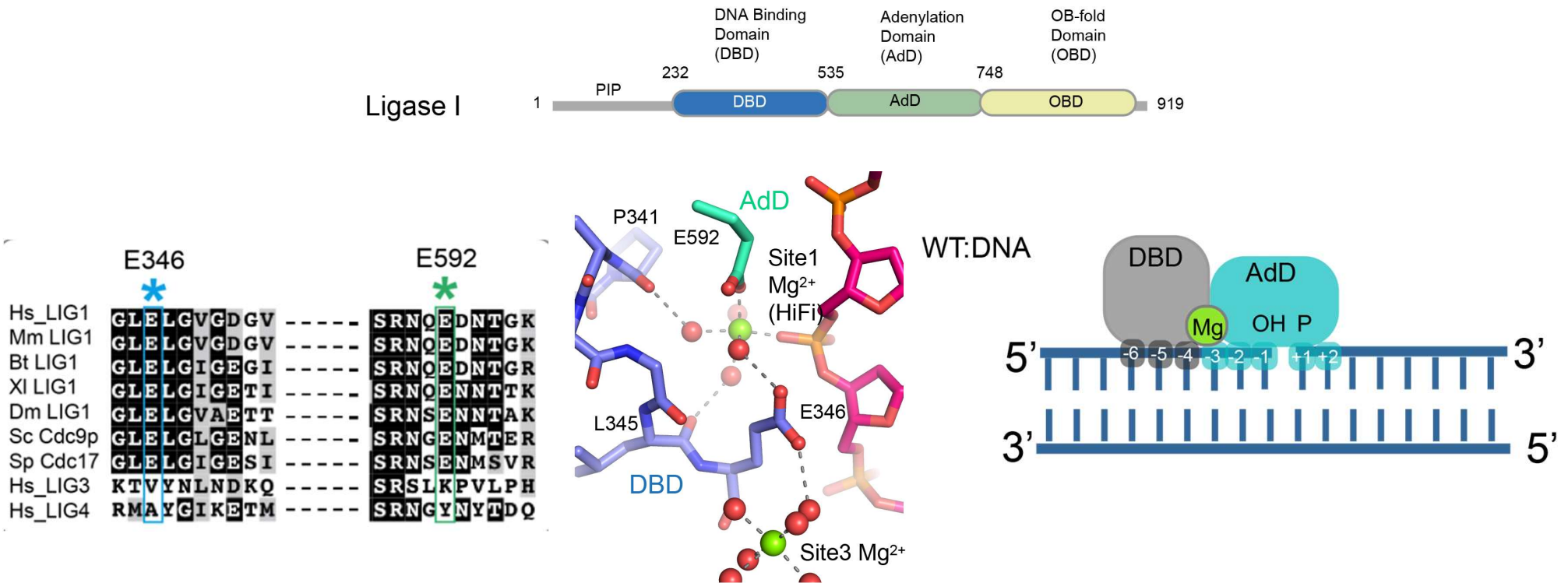
- Corrects mismatches made by all three replicases
- Is efficient
- Is independent of the polymerase activity of Pol  $\delta$
- Is largely independent of DNA mismatch repair
- Its specificity differs from intrinsic proofreading
- Balances leading and lagging strand replication fidelity
- Is relevant to origins of cancer and to evolution

# Okazaki Fragment Maturation



# High-resolution LIG1-DNA structure

R.S. Williams *et al.*, *Nature Communications* (2019)



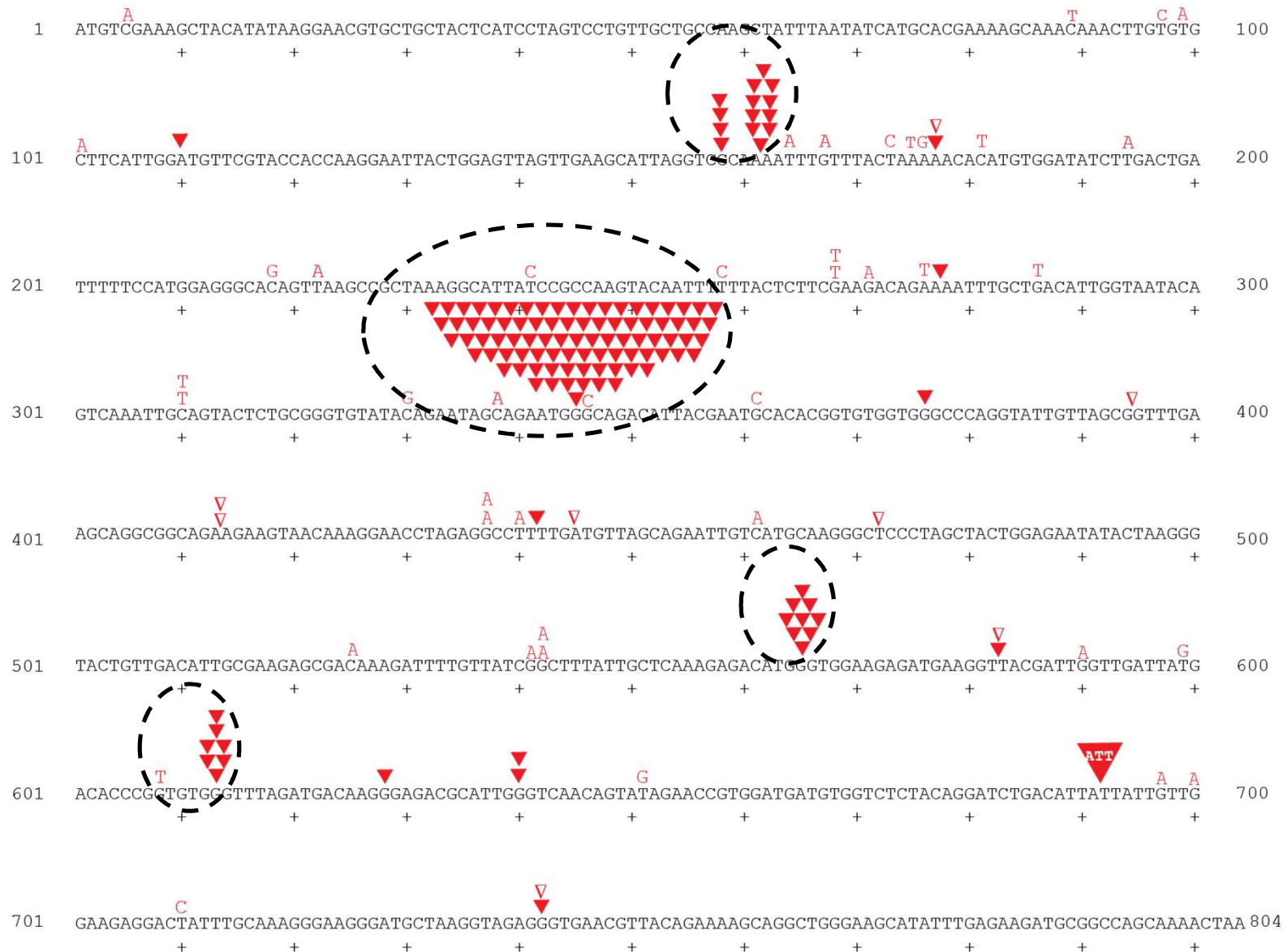
## Hypothesis:

DNA ligase 1 fidelity is important for genome stability

## Approach:

Use budding yeast to probe the biological consequences of expressing a *cdc9-EE/AA* mutant of DNA ligase 1

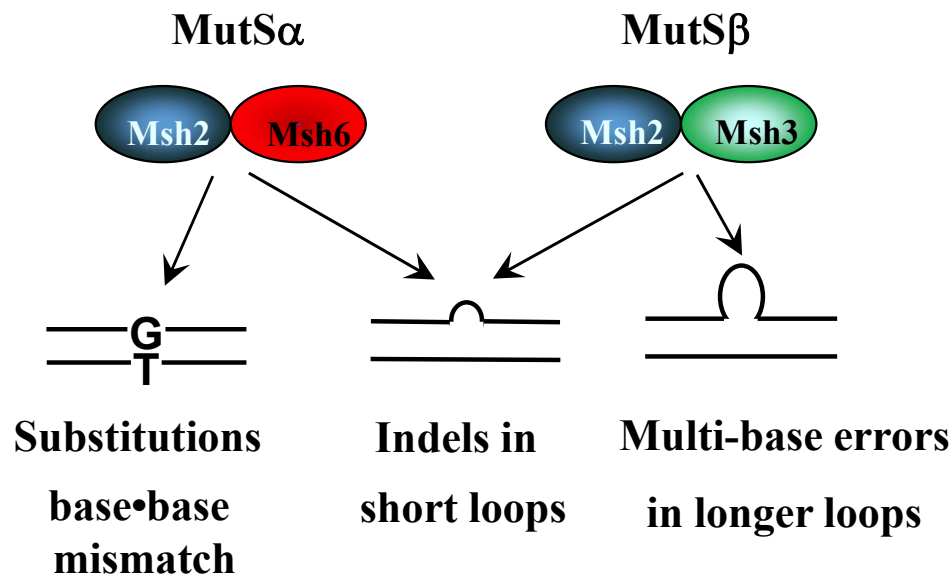
# Spectrum of *ura3* mutants in Lig1 EE-AA mutant



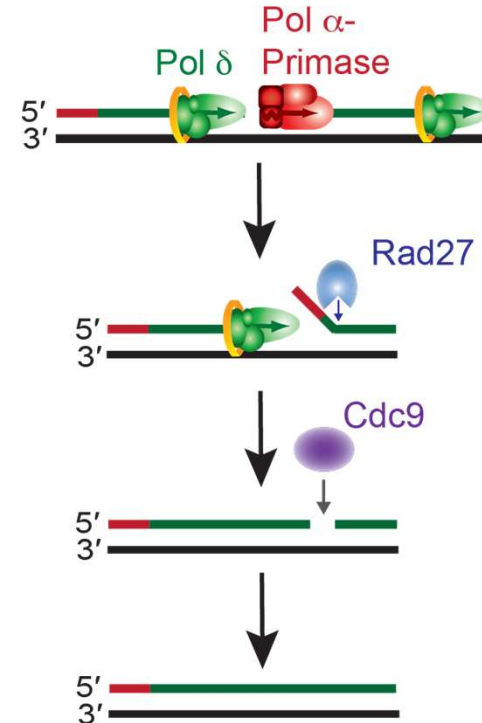
Dominated by one base additions in short mononucleotide runs

# How might the +1 insertion mutations in the *cdc9-EE/AA* strain be corrected?

## DNA Mismatch Repair

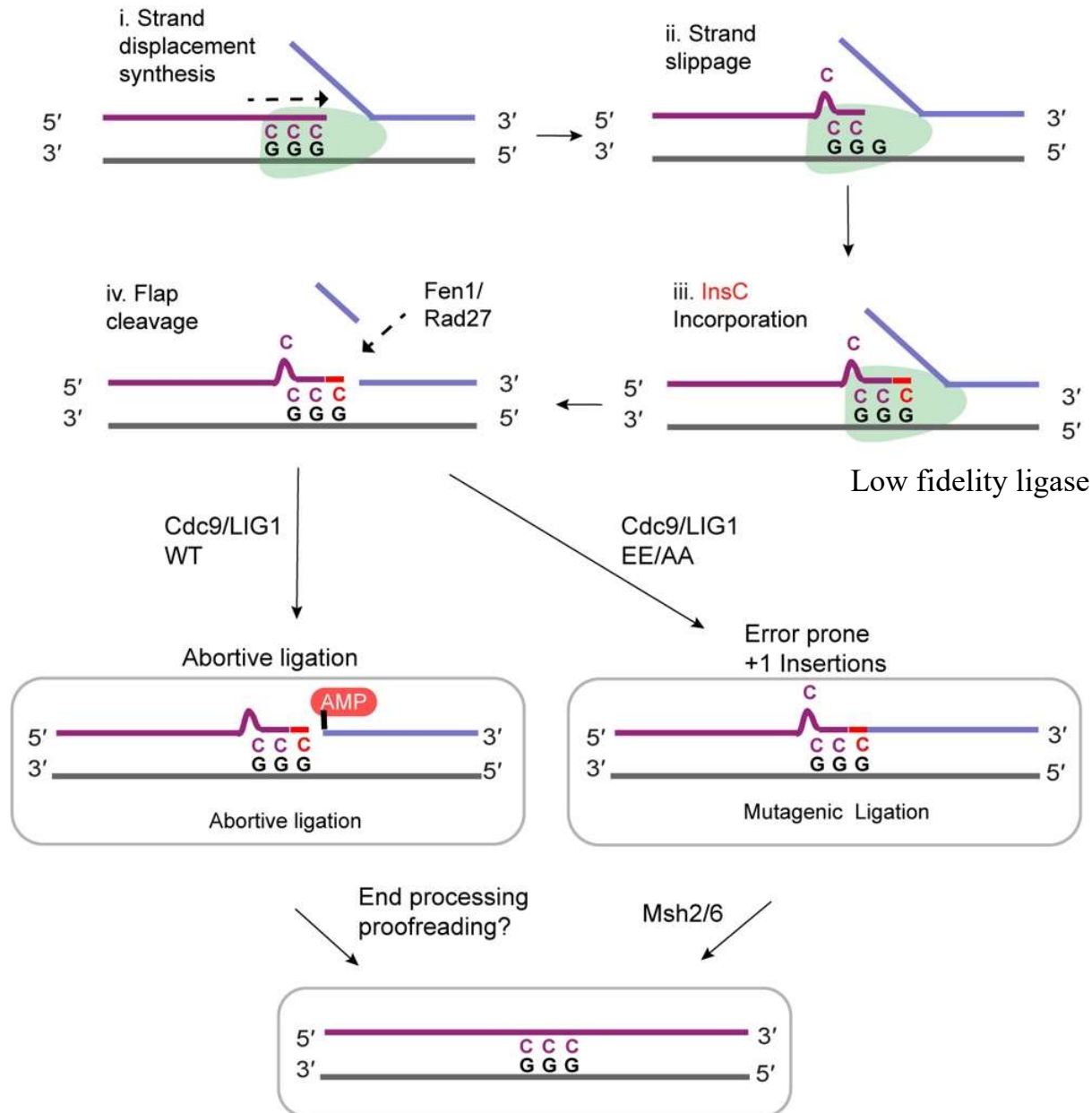


## Flap Processing During OFM





# DNA ligase 1 influences the fidelity of Okazaki fragment maturation



## Simple Elongation

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## Strand Displacement

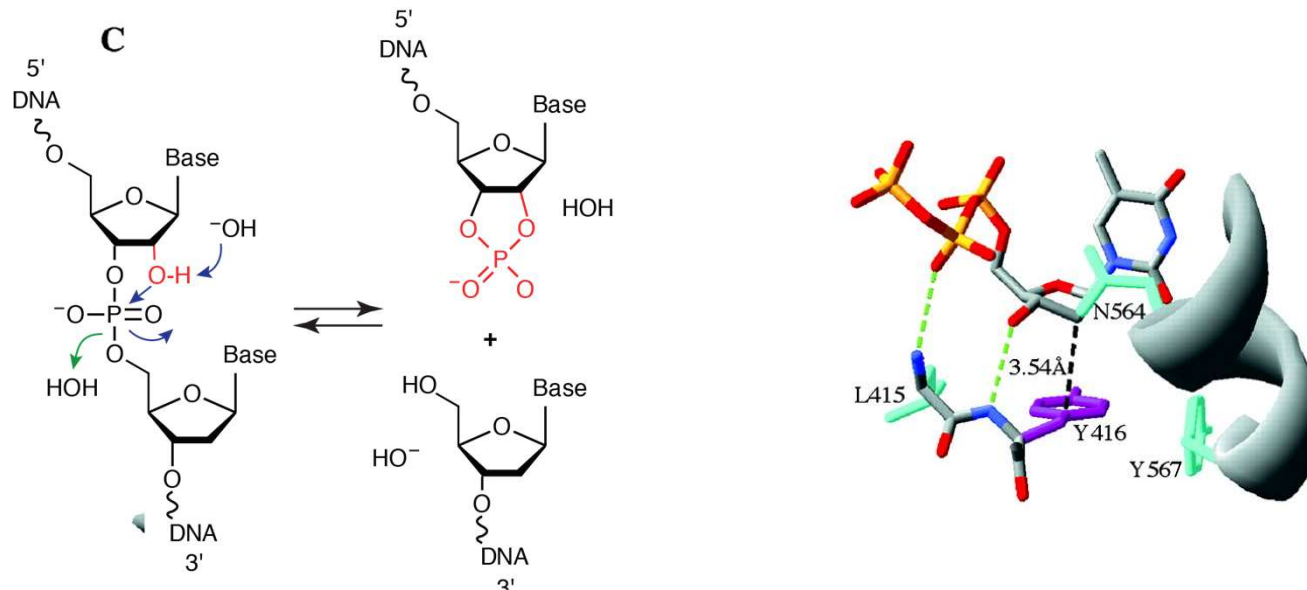
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**Are +1 errors common to strand displacement synthesis reactions?**

# Are rNTPs incorporated during DNA replication?

(Fidelity issue, but for sugar, not base)

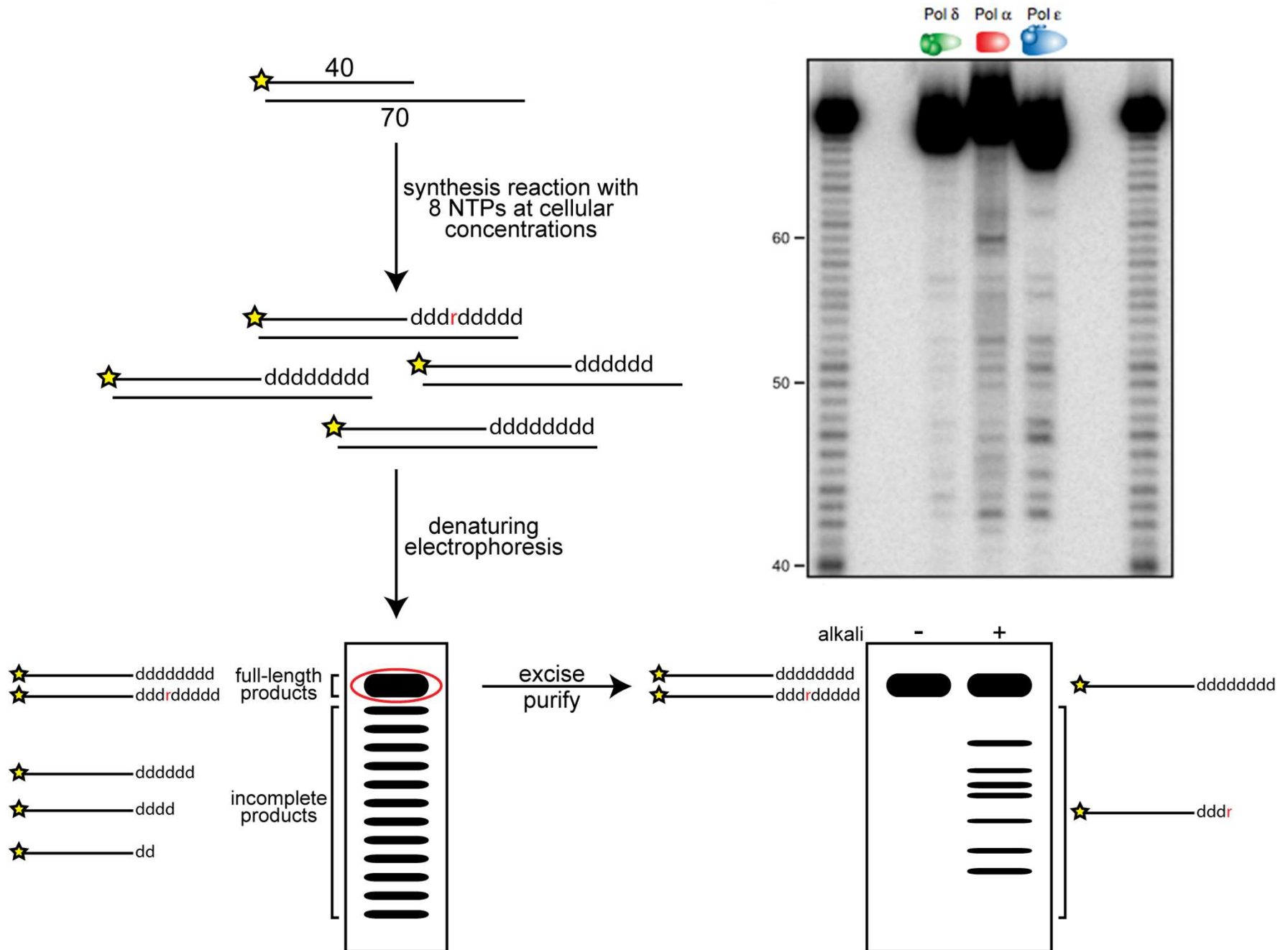


## dNTP and rNTP Pools in Yeast

(Courtesy of Andrei Chabes)

dNTP	Concentration <i>in vivo</i> (μM)	rNTP	Concentration <i>in vivo</i> (μM)	Fold Difference
dA	16	rA	3000	190
dC	14	rC	500	36
dG	12	rG	700	58
dT	30	rU	1700	57

# rNTP Incorporation *In Vitro*



**TABLE 1. Endogenous DNA Lesions**

**Lesion**

Uracil  
Thymine (opposi  
Hypoxanthine  
8-Oxoguanine  
faPy  
Thymine  
similar  
Etheno  
Etheno  
3-Met  
7-Me  
O<sup>6</sup>-M

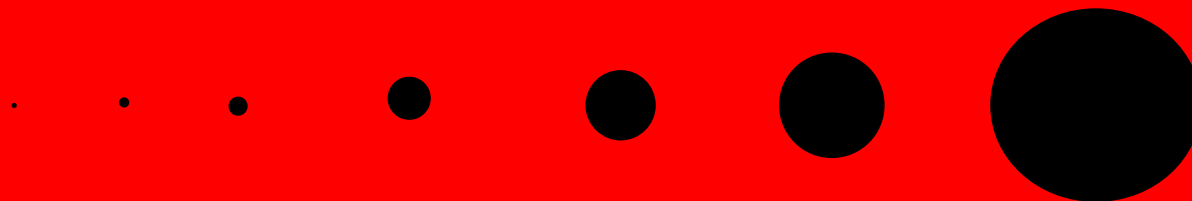
Abas

This t  
exhau  
oxidat

me steady state level in  
repair-proficient cells

for

RIBONUCLEOTIDES



# Ribonucleotides in DNA

## Origins, Repair and Consequences

Williams & Kunkel, *Annual Reviews Biochemistry*, online

### DNA Replicases

~ 13,000 in Yeast

>1,100,000 in Mouse

Mitochondrial Pol  $\gamma$

### RNA Primase

~150,000,000

Prim-Pol

X Family Pols

Y Family Pols

### DNA Replicases

Proofreading (weak)

RNase H2-Dependent RER

Top1 Removal

### RNA Primase

Okazaki Fragment Maturation

### Replication Stress

Genome Instability

(short deletions, GCRs, LOH)

Cell Death

Diseases

MMR

Mating Type Switching

Some effects may  
be related to other  
roles of RNase H2  
(e.g., resolving R-loops)

# Eukaryotic DNA Mismatch Repair

MutS $\alpha$  recognition

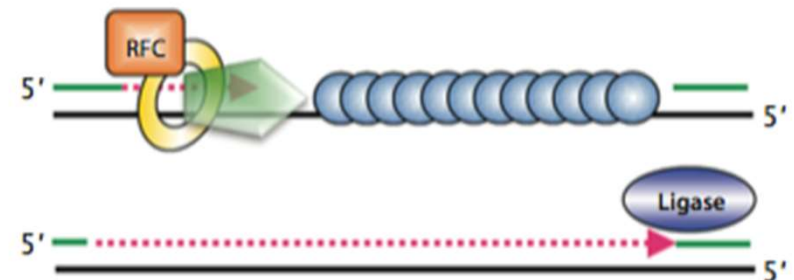
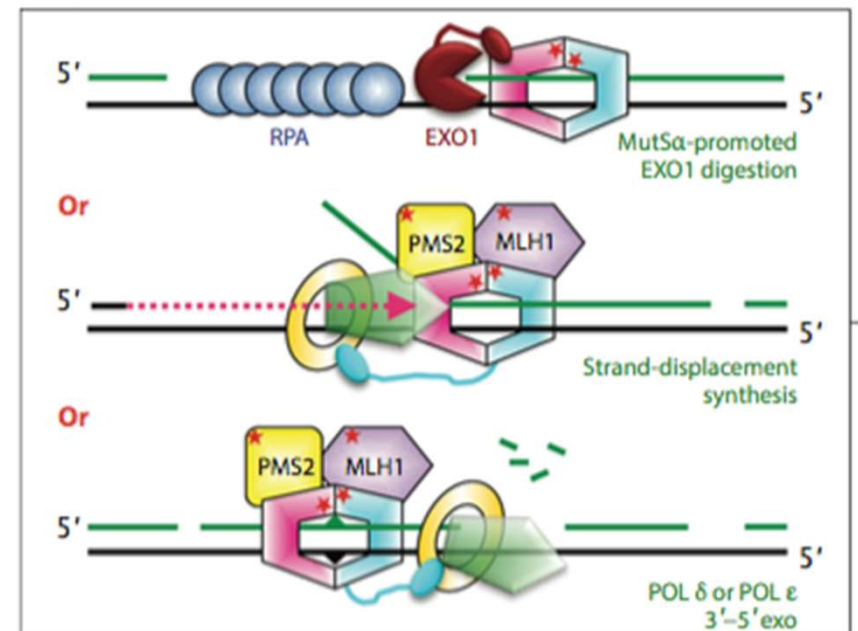
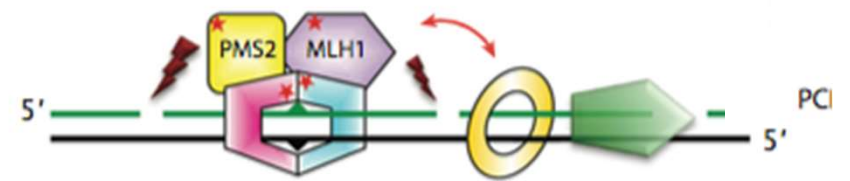
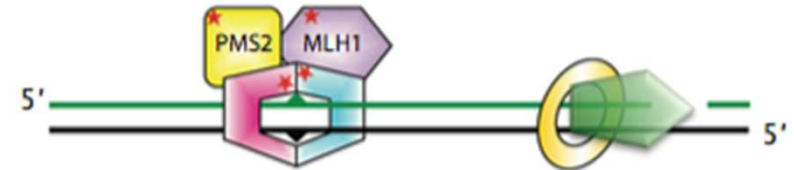
MutL $\alpha$  binding

MutL $\alpha$  incision

Mismatch removal

DNA synthesis

Ligation



# Evolutionary conservation of MMR efficiency

Lujan & Kunkel, *Cells* 10, 1224 (2021)

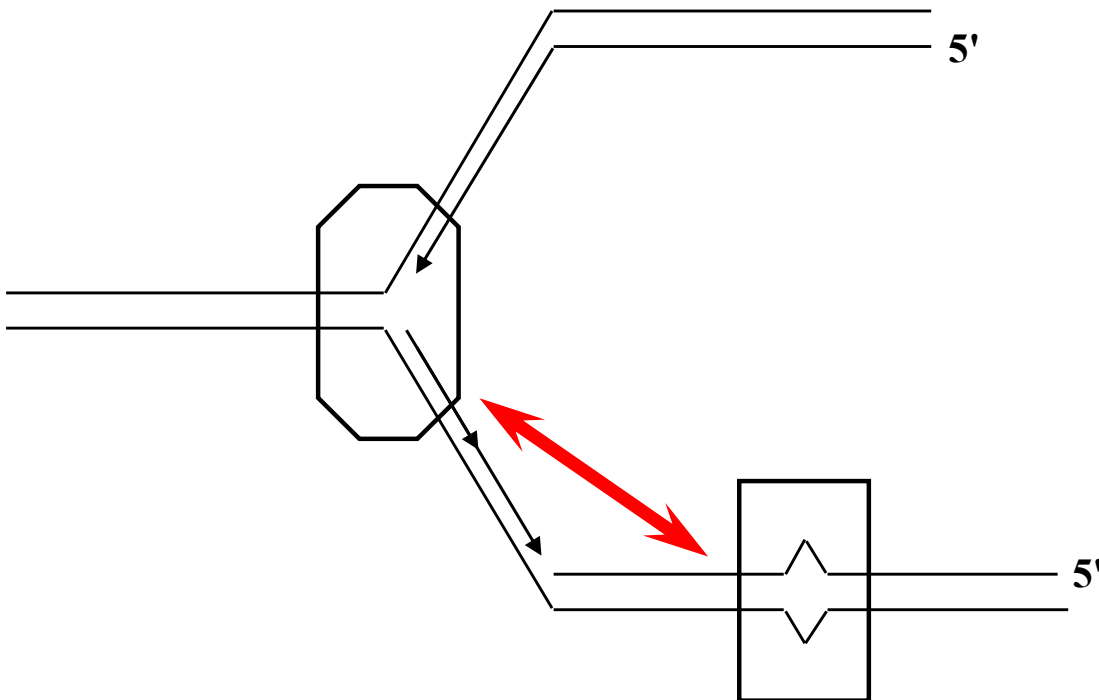
ct.	Species	Supergroup	Lower Clade	Cellularity	Ploidy	Germ V. Soma	Mutation Rates Gbp <sup>-1</sup> gen. <sup>-1</sup>	Rates Gbp <sup>-1</sup> div. <sup>-1</sup>	Lines	Mutations	MMR Efficiency	
2	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Archaeplastida	Embryophyta	multi-	2n	g	810	27	14	8902	120 <sup>a</sup>	100 <sup>b</sup>
3	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Opisthokonta	Ascomycota	uni-	1n	g	31	31	6	1840	79	89
4	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Opisthokonta	Ascomycota	uni-	2n	g	13	13	25	3684	57	57
1	<i>Schizosaccharom pombe</i>	Opisthokonta	Ascomycota	uni-	1n	g	19	19	5	2597	51	51
2	<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	Opisthokonta	Nematoda	multi-	2n	g	-	72	9	9110	-	130
1	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	Opisthokonta	Chordata	multi-	2n	s	-	47	2	6531	-	52



# Studying Relationships Between Replication and MMR *In Vivo*

“--- it may be that mismatch repair acts in a directed manner,  
-- possibly because of a *special relation* to the replication complex.”

Wagner & Meselson (1976) *PNAS*



**Does MMR Efficiency Depend On:**

**Polymerase that makes error**

**MMR sub-pathway**

**Mismatch composition**

**Leading v Lagging Strand**

**Sequence context (e.g., non-B DNA)**

**Replication timing**

**Chromosomal location**

**Chromatin status**

# Requirement for PCNA in DNA Mismatch Repair at a Step Preceding DNA Resynthesis

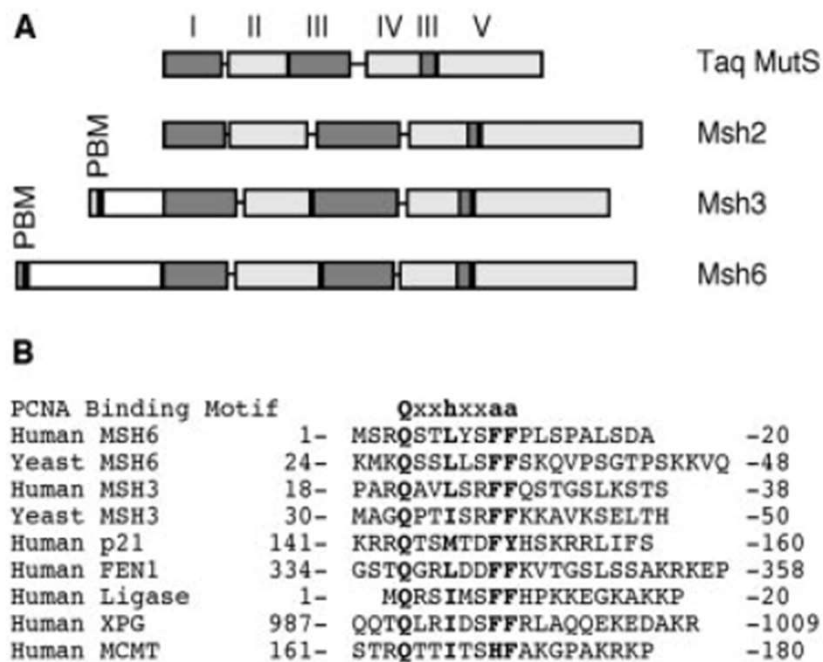


Table 4. Sequence Alignment of PIP-Box Regions from Human Proteins

p21	QTSMTDFY
pol-β	QLQKV-HF
pol-δ	QVSITGFF
pol-ι	SRGVLSFF
pol-η	Q-TLESFF
pol-κ	KHTLDIFF
pol-λ	SVPVLELF
WRN	QWKLLRDF
RecQ	QNLIRHFF
XPG	QLRIDSFF
MSH6	QSTLYSFF
MSH3	QAVLSRFF
MCMT	QTTITSHF
RF-C	MDIRKFF
LigI	QRSIMSFF
Topo-IIα	QTTLAFKP
FEN1	QGRLLDDFF
UNG2	QKTLYSFF
ING1	QLHLVNYV
Tigger2	QTSLLSYF

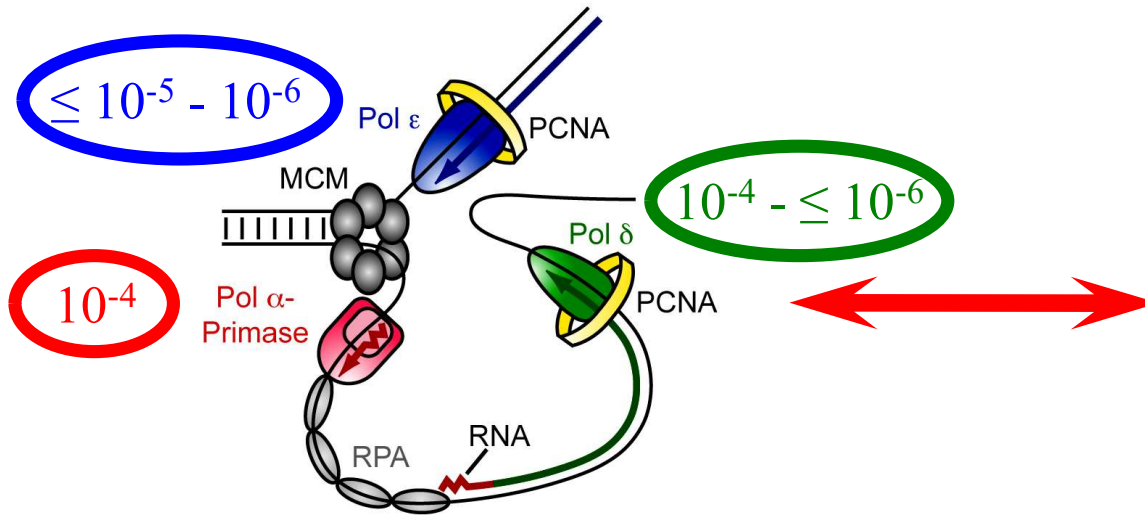
Conserved residues of the PIP-box are underlined.

Umar *et al.*, *Cell* (1996)

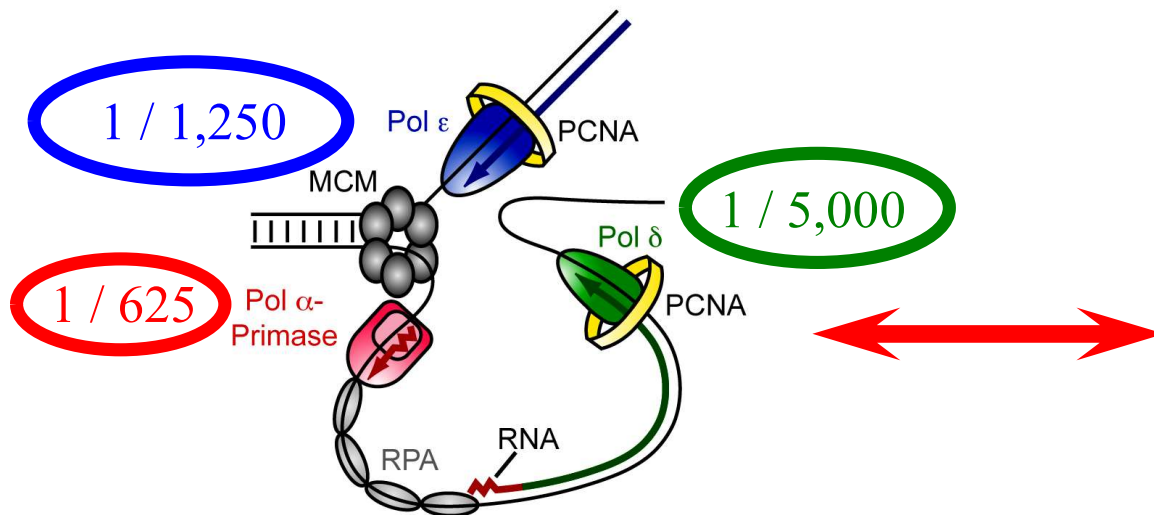
Clark *et al.*, *JBC* (2000)

# Replication of Undamaged Eukaryotic Nuclear DNA

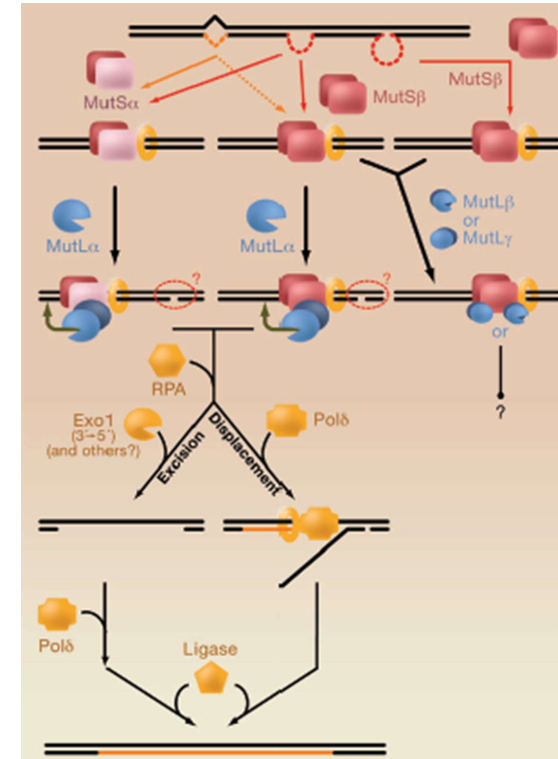
## Substitutions



## Ribonucleotides



# Mismatch Repair



# Ribonucleotide Excision Repair

