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Article



molecular
systems
biology

Slowdown of growth controls cellular differentiation

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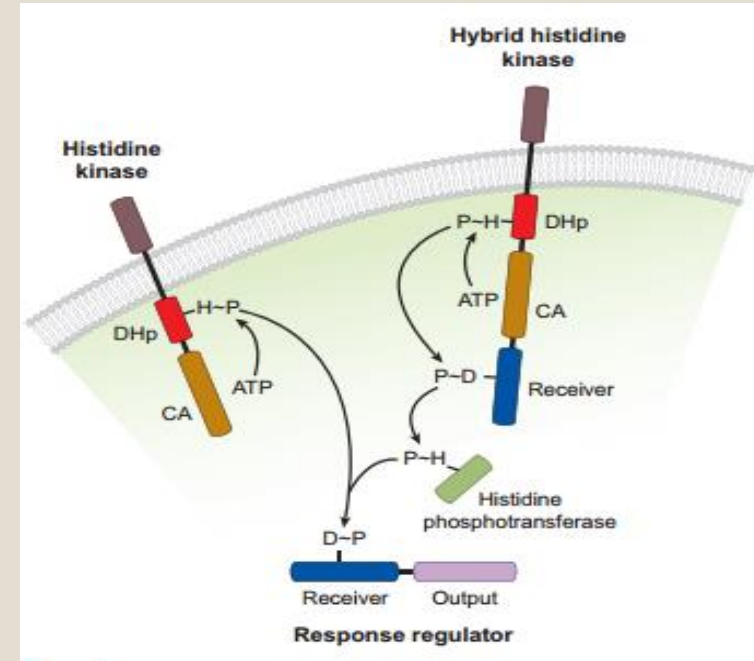
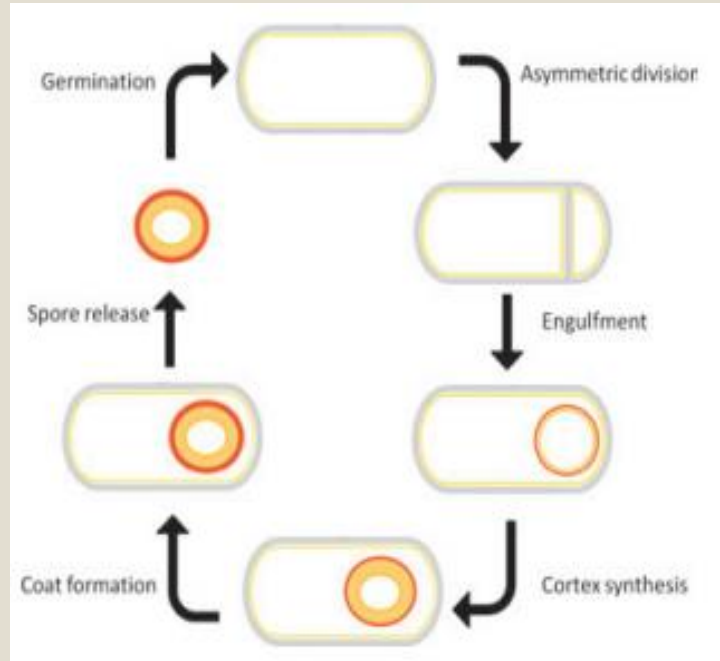
- Introduction

- Result

- Conclusion

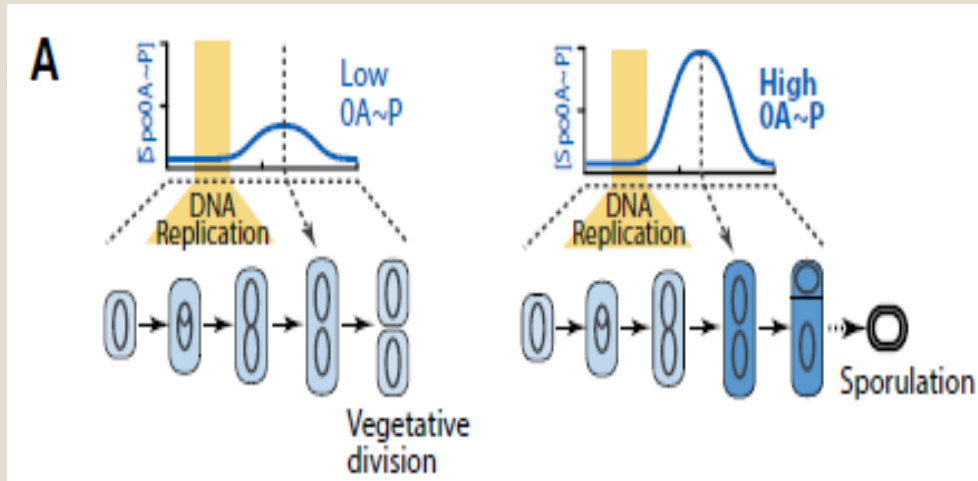
- Discussion

Introduction

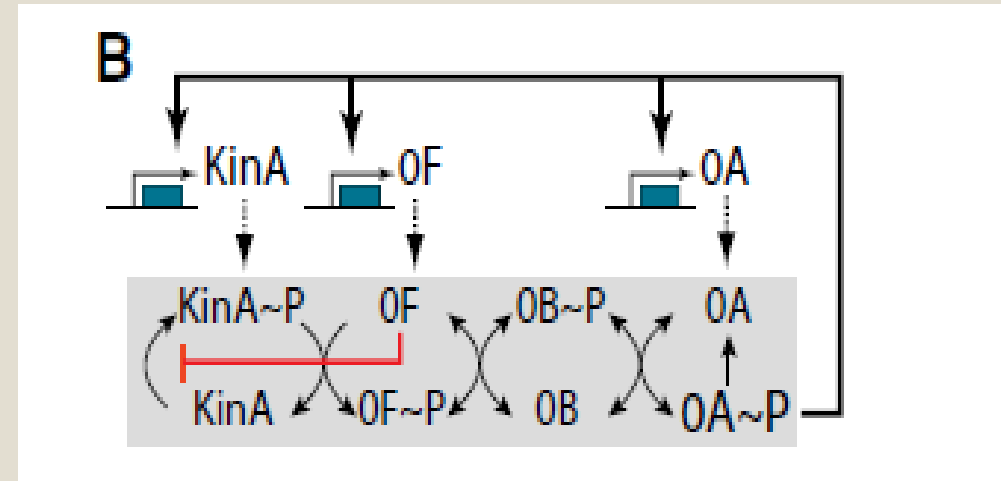


subtilis cells survive prolonged starvation by differentiating into **stress-resistant** and **metabolically inert spores**

A two-component **signal** transduction paradigm Bacillus



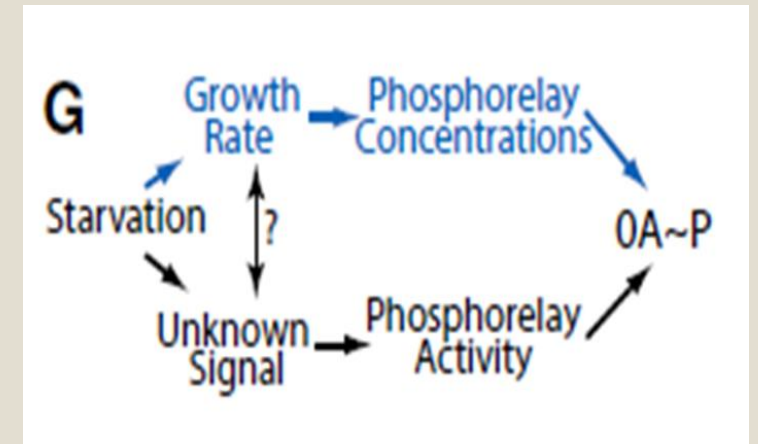
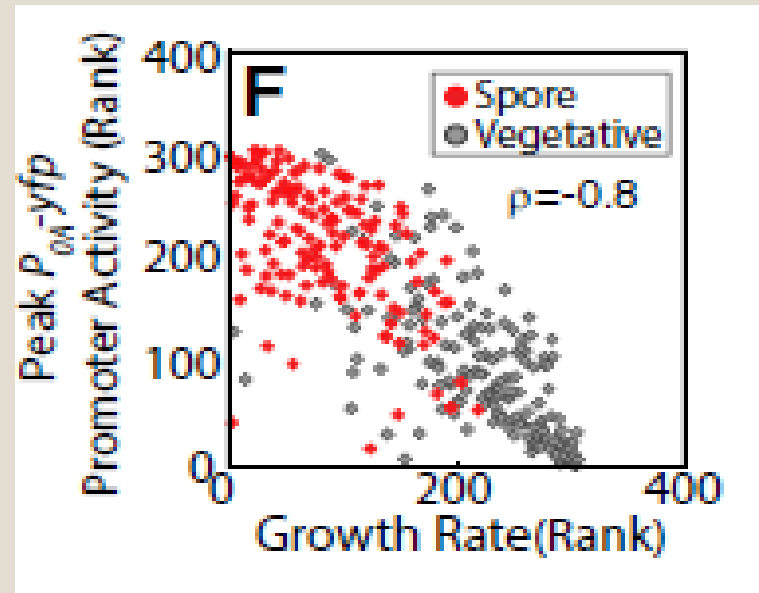
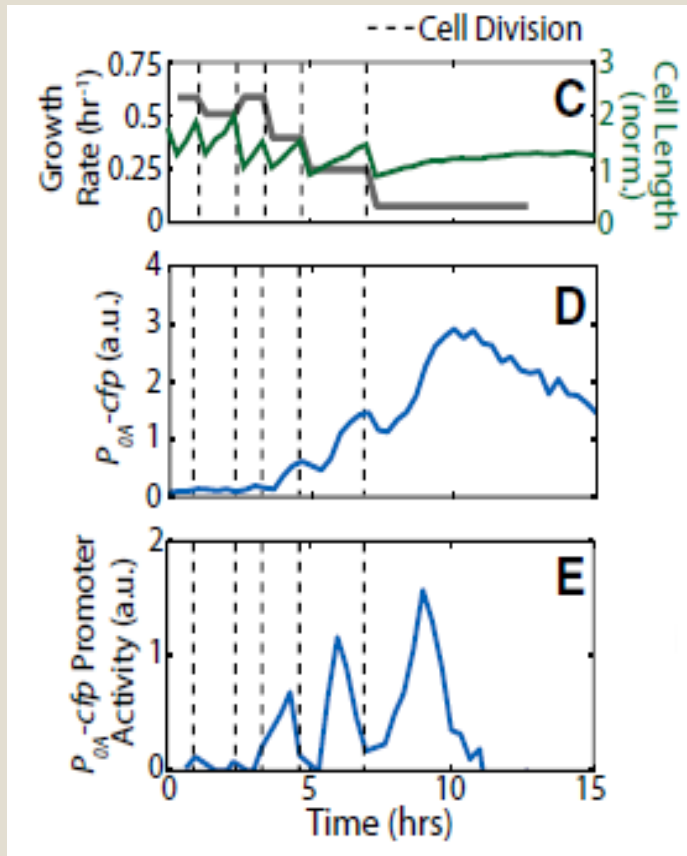
The decision to **sporulate** is based on the **amplitude** of the $OA\sim P$ pulse



The sporulation **phosphorelay network** that controls $OA\sim P$ formation

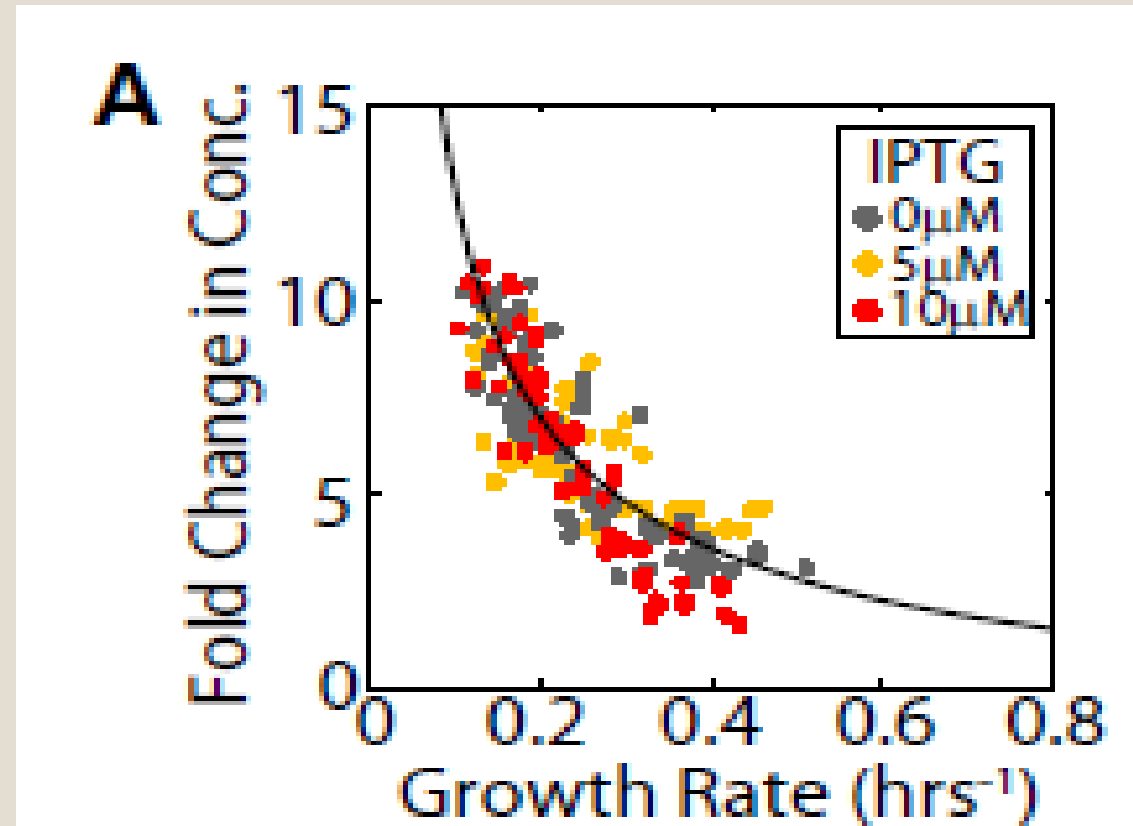
Result

0A~P pulse amplitudes are correlated with cell growth rate

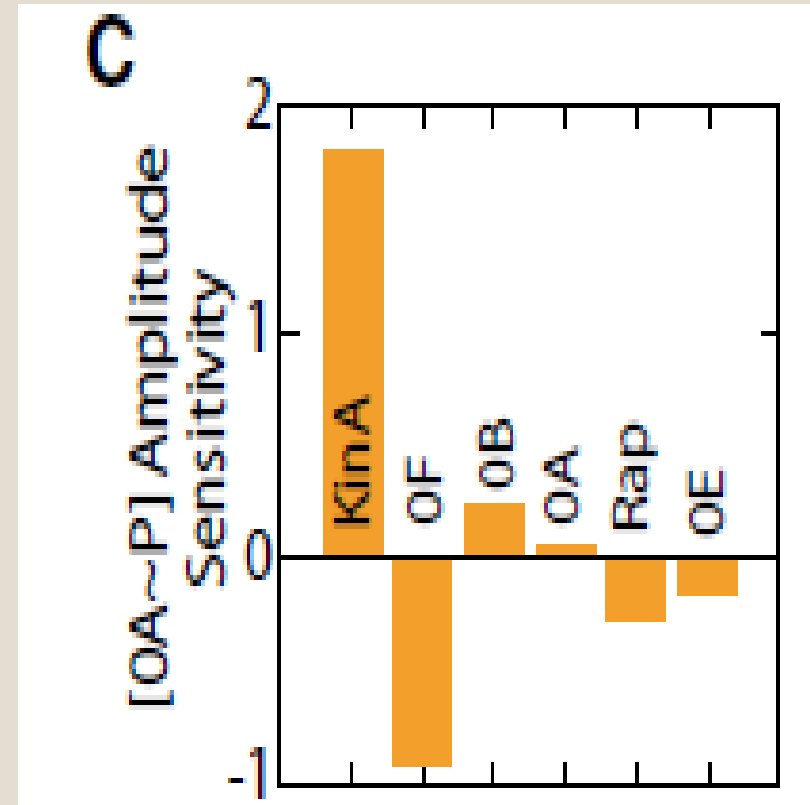
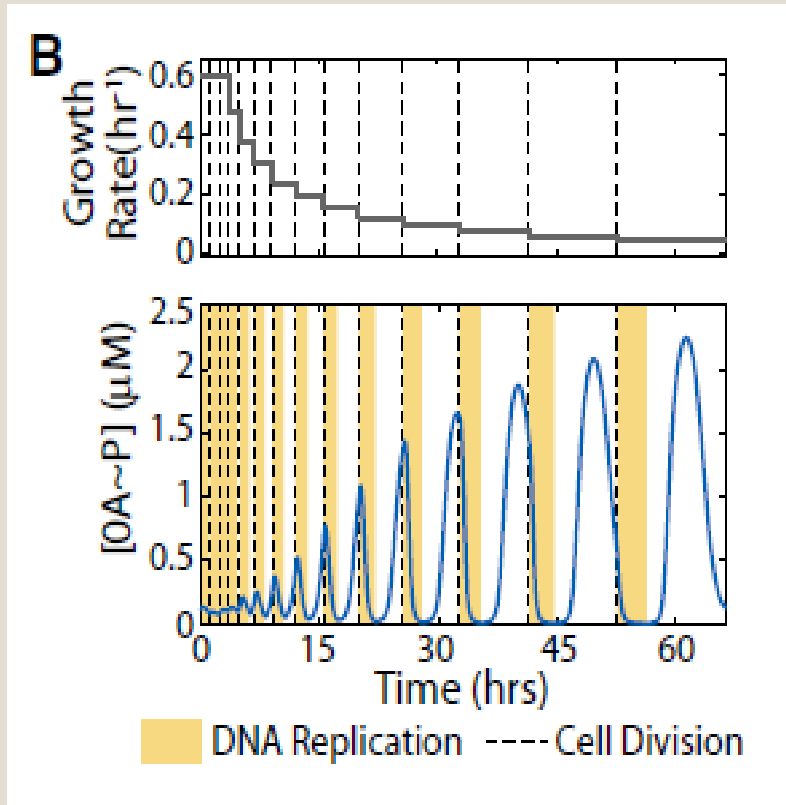


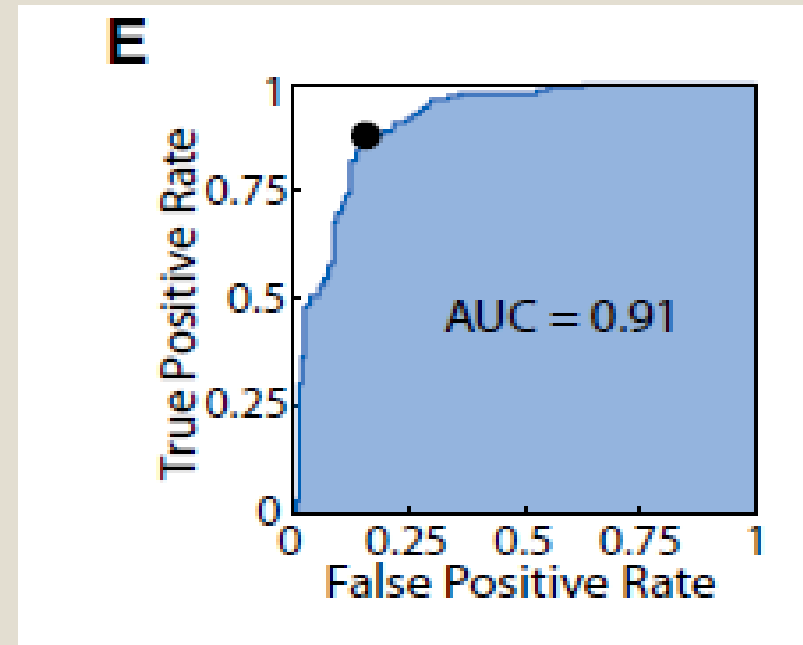
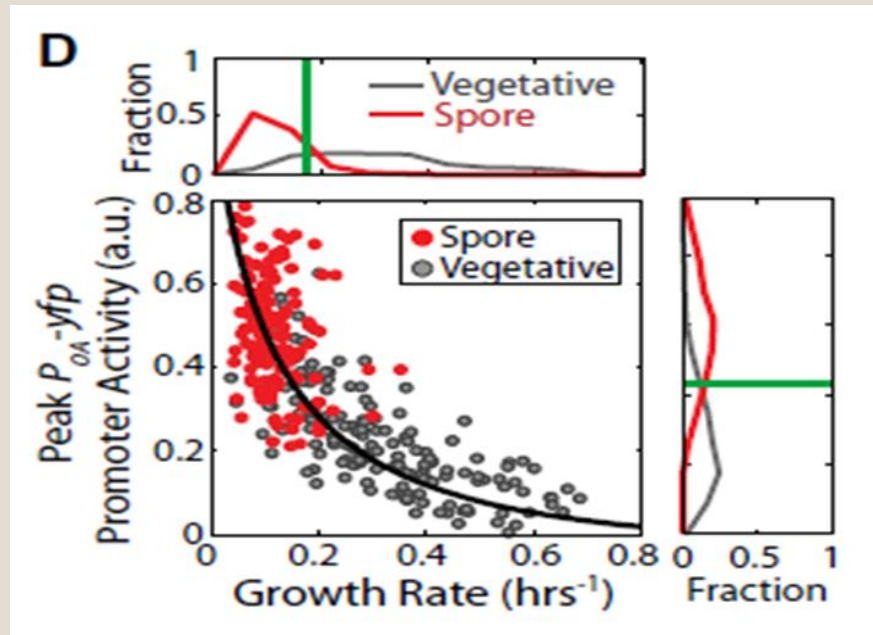
Decrease in growth rate leads to accumulation of **stable proteins**

$$C(\mu) = \frac{p}{V(\mu)(k_{\text{deg}} + \mu)}$$

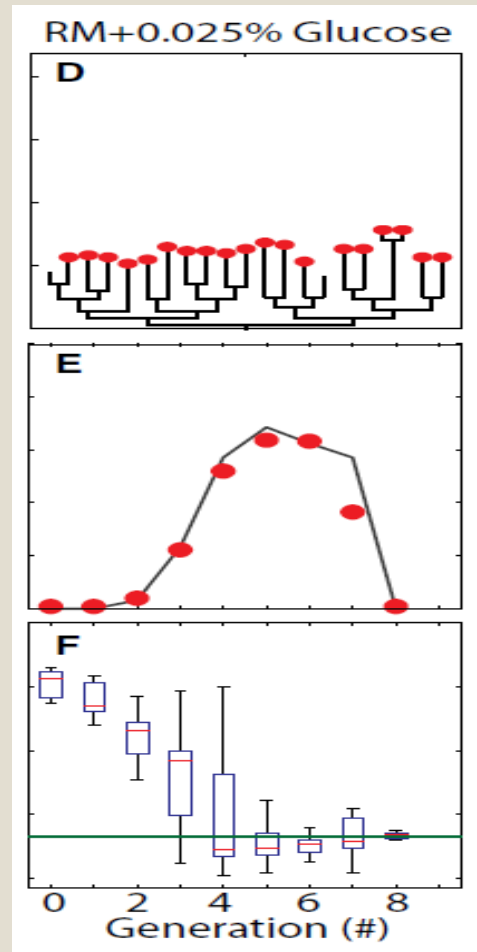
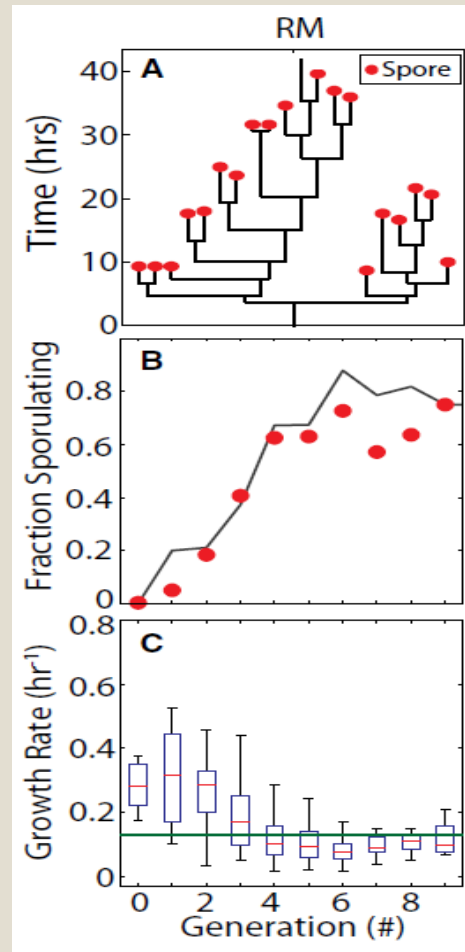


Accumulation of phosphorelay **proteins** is sufficient to explain observed increase in **OA~P levels**



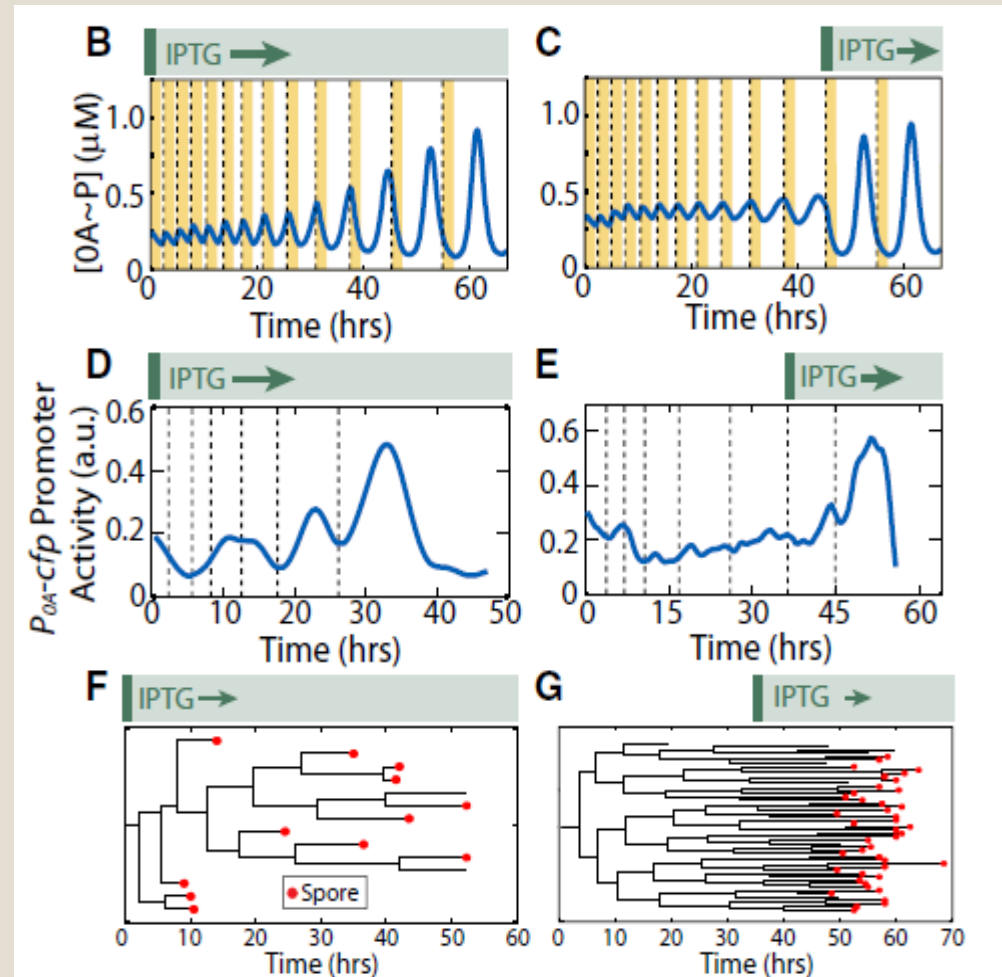
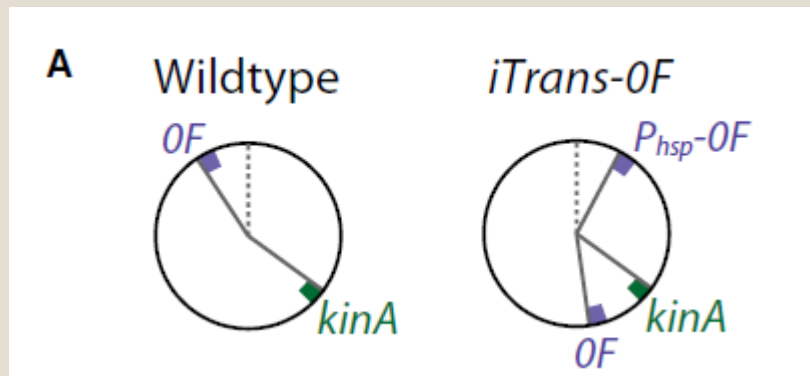


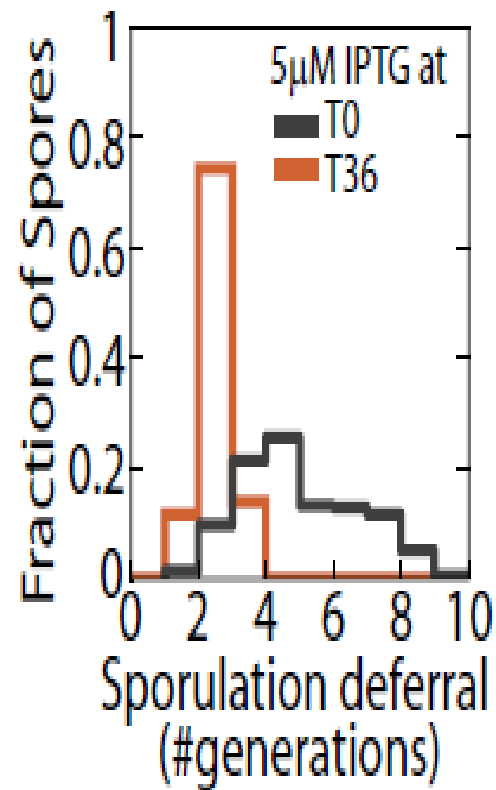
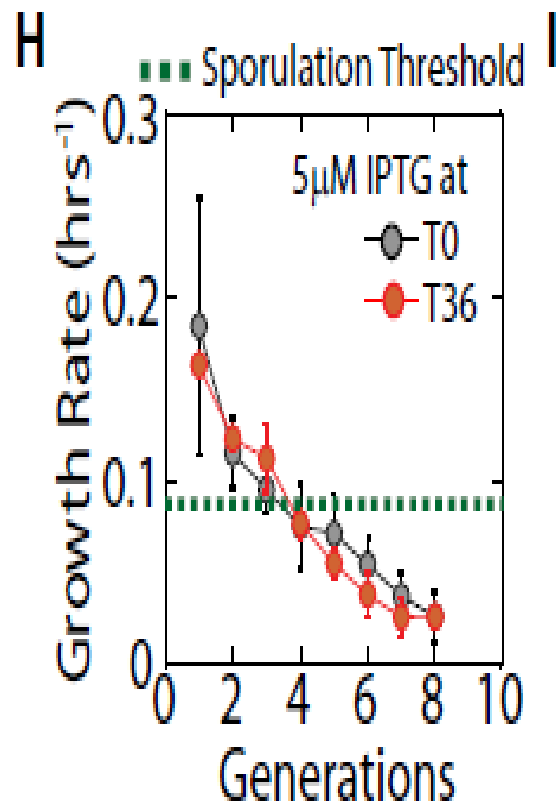
Test the **effectiveness** of growth rate as a predictor of cell fates



perturbed growth dynamics with **nutrient addition** to test the ability of the growth threshold **model** to explain cell-fate decisions in **different conditions**

Growth slowdown controls sporulation **deferral**.



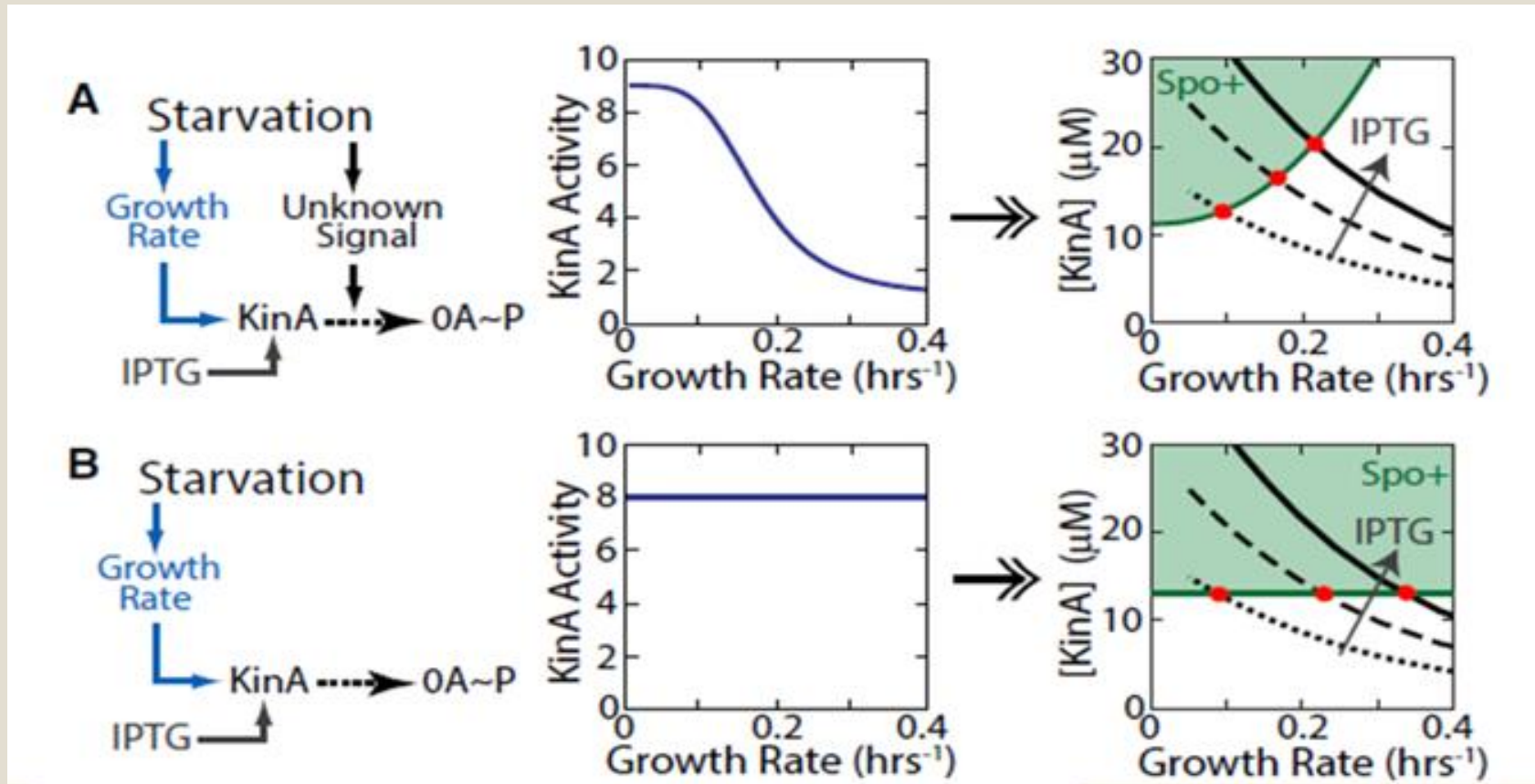


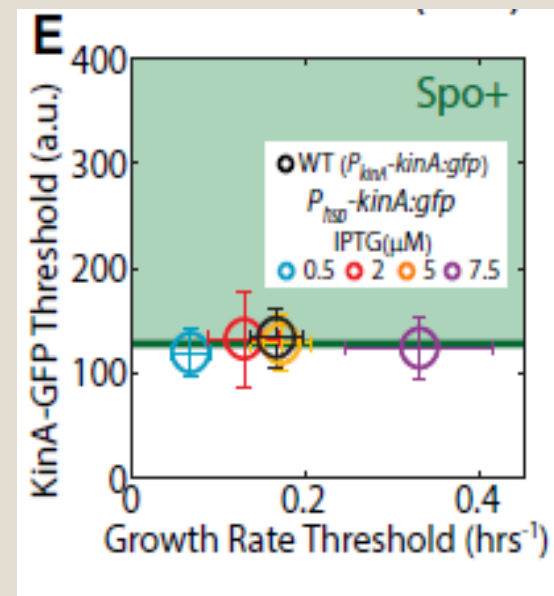
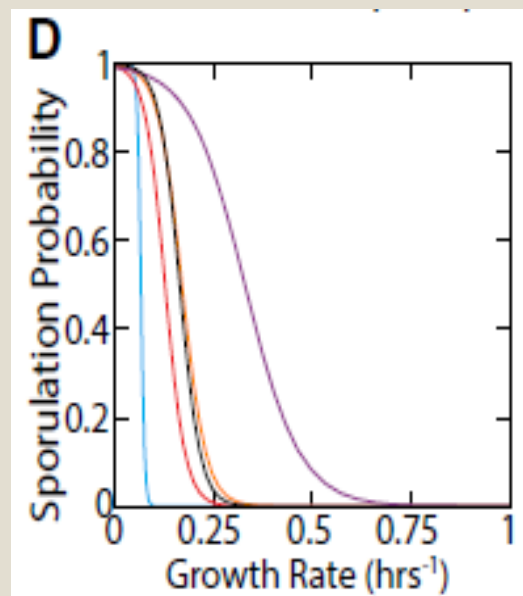
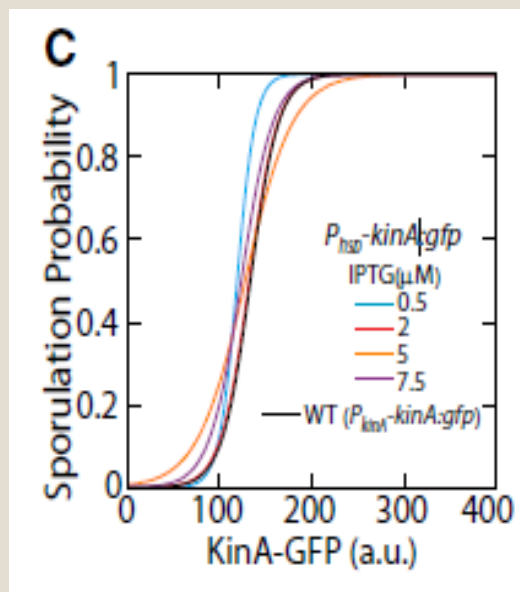
the **timing** of IPTG addition affected the **O_A activity** dynamics but not the **average growth dynamics**

sporulation was deferred and its deferral was **heterogeneous** when IPTG was added **early**

when IPTG was added **late**, cells sporulated immediately upon IPTG addition **without any deferral**

KinA activity does not depend on the growth rate





conclusion

- only cells growing slower than a certain rate reach **threshold** Spo0A activity necessary for sporulation.
- This **growth threshold model** accurately predicts cell fates.
- sensing the **growth rates** enables cells to indirectly **detect** starvation without the need for evaluating specific stress signals.

Discussion

- **Advantage**

focused on the role of **cell growth** in determining the **phosphorelay response**.
Apply in a wide range of other systems.

- **Disadvantage**

other signals may also affect the phosphorelay.

Why growth slowdown controls sporulation **deferral**.

- **Inspiration**

Network Model

Thanks for your watching!