

# The Transcriptional Coregulator LEUNIG\_HOMOLOG Inhibits Light-Dependent Seed Germination in Arabidopsis

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**PHYTOCHROME-INTERACTING FACTOR1 (PIF1) is a basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor that inhibits light-dependent seed germination in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. However, it remains unclear whether PIF1 requires other factors to regulate its direct targets. Here, we demonstrate that LEUNIG\_HOMOLOG (LUH), a Groucho family transcriptional corepressor, binds to PIF1 and coregulates its targets. Not only are the transcriptional profiles of the *luh* and *pif1* mutants remarkably similar, more than 80% of the seeds of both genotypes germinate in the dark. We show by chromatin immunoprecipitation that LUH binds a subset of PIF1 targets in a partially PIF1-dependent manner. Unexpectedly, we found LUH binds and coregulates not only PIF1-activated targets but also PIF1-repressed targets. Together, our results indicate LUH functions with PIF1 as a transcriptional coregulator to inhibit seed germination.**

## INTRODUCTION

Phytochrome-interacting factors (PIFs) are basic helix-loop-helix transcription factors that interact with phytochromes in a light-dependent manner (Ni et al., 1998; Huq and Quail, 2002; Khanna et al., 2004; Oh et al., 2004; Leivar et al., 2008). The seven PIFs in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (PIF1, PIF3, PIF4, PIF5, PIF6, PIF7, and PIF8) regulate light responses ranging from seed germination (Oh et al., 2004) and hypocotyl negative gravitropism (Oh et al., 2004; Shin et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2011) to seedling photomorphogenesis (Ni et al., 1998; Huq and Quail, 2002; Kim et al., 2003; Fujimori et al., 2004; Huq et al., 2004), plant shade avoidance (Lorrain et al., 2008; Leivar et al., 2012; Li et al., 2012), and circadian gating of shade avoidance (Salter et al., 2003). PIF1 inhibits the germination of imbibed seeds in the dark when phytochromes are inactive by repressing several genes required for cell wall loosening (Oh et al., 2009). These include six *EXPANSIN (EXP)* genes and seven *XYLOGLUCAN ENDO-TRANSGLYCOSYLASE/HYDROLASE (XTH)* genes.

PIF1 also inhibits seed germination in the dark by regulating the abscisic acid (ABA), gibberellin (GA), brassinosteroid, and jasmonate hormone signaling pathways (Oh et al., 2006, 2007, 2009). PIF1's coordinate regulation of plant hormone signaling pathways is exemplified by the mechanisms of its activation of ABA signaling and simultaneous inhibition of GA signaling. Not only does PIF1 regulate the expression of the genes required for ABA and GA biosynthesis, it also regulates the expression of key ABA and GA signaling components. Specifically, PIF1 increases ABA levels in imbibed seeds by activating the expression of ABA biosynthetic genes (*ABA1*, *NCED6*, and *NCED9*) and repressing the expression of ABA catabolic genes (*CYP707A2*) (Oh et al., 2007). PIF1 reduces

GA levels by repressing GA biosynthetic genes (*GA3ox1* and *GA3ox2*) and activating GA catabolic genes (*GA2ox2*) (Oh et al., 2006). PIF1 also enhances ABA signaling by activating the expression of positive components of the ABA signaling pathway (*ABI3* and *ABI5*) (Oh et al., 2009). Conversely, PIF1 inhibits GA signaling by activating the expression of negative components of the GA signaling pathway (*GAI* and *RG1*) (Oh et al., 2006). This reciprocal pattern of regulation for both biosynthetic and signaling genes drives strong ABA signaling and limits GA signaling, a hormonal balance that inhibits the germination of imbibed seeds in the dark.

Of the PIF1-regulated genes mentioned above, only two of the six *EXP* genes, one of the seven *XTH* genes, and all four signaling pathway components (*ABI3*, *ABI5*, *GAI*, and *RG1*) are PIF1 targets (Oh et al., 2009). This implies that the rest of PIF1's influence on cell wall loosening and hormone biosynthesis occurs indirectly via genetic interactions with the PIF1 targets. SOMNUS (SOM) and DOF AFFECTING GERMINATION1 (DAG1) function downstream of PIF1 to regulate subsets of the ABA and GA biosynthetic genes. SOM encodes a zinc finger protein that represses *GA3ox1* and *GA3ox2* partly by decreasing the expression of two histone arginine demethylase genes (*Jumonji20 [JM20]* and *JM22*) (Cho et al., 2012). DAG1 directly represses *GA3ox1* by binding its promoter (Gabriele et al., 2010).

Whole processes reverse in the light when phytochromes become active and enter the nucleus (Sakamoto and Nagatani, 1996; Kircher et al., 1999; Yamaguchi et al., 1999). Activated phytochromes bind PIF1 (Huq et al., 2004; Oh et al., 2004), causing it to release DNA (Park et al., 2012). This subsequently leads to PIF1 protein degradation (Oh et al., 2004; Shen et al., 2008). Loss of PIF1 reverses the mechanisms described above, resulting in enhanced GA signaling, reduced ABA signaling, cell wall loosening, and seed germination.

PIF1 has a transcription activation domain that can activate reporter gene expression in yeast and in transient expression systems (Huq et al., 2004; Shen et al., 2008), but PIF1 shows both activator and repressor activity in plants. Of the PIF1 targets mentioned above, PIF1 activates *ABI3*, *ABI5*, *GAI*, and *RG1* and represses

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*EXP8*, *EXP10*, and *XTH28* (Oh et al., 2009). In a genome-wide binding analysis performed on imbibed seeds, we identified 748 PIF1 binding sites closely associated with 842 genes. PIF1 activates 116 and represses 72 of these for a total of 188 PIF1 binding, PIF1-regulated targets in imbibed seeds. Other PIFs show similar dual activator/repressor activity profiles. In seedlings, PIF3 activates 20 and represses 2 targets (Zhang et al., 2013), PIF4 activates 893 and represses 540 targets (Oh et al., 2012), and PIF5 activates 115 and represses 3 targets (Hornitschek et al., 2012). The mechanism by which PIFs achieve this differential regulation of their direct targets remains unclear.

Groucho (Gro), which was discovered in *Drosophila melanogaster*, is the founding member of the highly conserved Gro family of transcriptional corepressors with WD repeats and Q-rich domains (Chen and Courey, 2000; Jennings and Ish-Horowitz, 2008). Gro family members target specific promoters by interacting with DNA binding transcription factors or other cofactors and they repress transcription by recruiting either HDAC (Chen et al., 1999) or mediator complexes (Kuchin and Carlson, 1998; Conlan et al., 1999). In *Drosophila*, Gro interacts with Hairy and E(Spl) to repress members of the proneural achaete-scute complex (AS-C) and suppress the formation of extra bristles around the developing eye (Heitzler et al., 1996).

In Arabidopsis, the 13 members of the Gro family are divided into the LEUNIG (LUG) and TOPLESS (TPL) subclades (Liu and Karmarkar, 2008; Lee and Golz, 2012), but both subclades act as transcriptional corepressors to regulate plant development and hormonal signaling (Liu and Meyerowitz, 1995; Conner and Liu, 2000; Long et al., 2006; Szemenyei et al., 2008; Stahle et al., 2009; Grigороva et al., 2011; Oh et al., 2012). The first function for LUG in plants was found in flower development. *AGAMOUS* (*AG*), a C class floral homeotic gene normally expressed in the inner two floral whorls, is derepressed in the outer two whorls of *lug* mutants, causing homeotic conversion of sepals to carpels and petals to stamens (Liu and Meyerowitz, 1995). In addition, *lug* mutants also show disrupted leaf (Stahle et al., 2009), gynoecium (Chen et al., 2000), and pollen development (Schneitz et al., 1997; Liu et al., 2000). Unlike *lug* mutants, *leunig\_homolog* (*luh*) mutants do not show any floral homeotic conversion. Instead, *luh* mutants produce seed coats with pectin containing an altered rhamnolacturonan I (RG I) (Bui et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2011; Walker et al., 2011). The decreased hydration capacity of this altered RG I prevents *luh* mutant seeds from extruding mucilage upon imbibition. This *luh* mutant mucilage phenotype is likely caused by reduced expression of *MUM2*, which encodes a  $\beta$ -galactosidase that hydrolyzes a galactose residue from RG I (Huang et al., 2011; Walker et al., 2011). Although the developmental processes regulated by LUG and LUH are mainly distinct, the synthetic lethality of the *lug luh* double mutant (Sitaraman et al., 2008) and the partial rescue of the *luh* mutant phenotype by LUG (Walker et al., 2011) suggest partial functional redundancy.

Like other Gro family members, LUG is a transcriptional co-repressor. LUG binds DNA indirectly via transcription factors like APETALA1 (AP1), SEPALLATA3 (SEP3), SHORT VEGETATIVE PHASE (SVP), AGL24, and YABBY to repress targets like *AG* (Sridhar et al., 2006; Stahle et al., 2009; Gregis et al., 2013). LUG binds these transcription factors either directly (YABBY) or indirectly (AP1, SEP3, SVP, and AGL24) through an adaptor protein

called SEUSS (SEU) (Gregis et al., 2006; Sridhar et al., 2006). The LUG-SEU complex then represses gene expression by recruiting HISTONE DEACETYLASE19 or by interacting with the mediator complex (Gonzalez et al., 2007). LUH also interacts with SEU and SEU-LIKEs (SLKs) (Sitaraman et al., 2008; Stahle et al., 2009; Shrestha et al., 2014), but LUH's transcription factor partners remain unclear.

Here, we asked whether LUG or LUH act as corepressors of PIF1 in imbibed seeds. We report that the transcriptional profile of *luh* mutant seeds is similar to that of *pif1* mutant seeds. In addition, more than 80% of both *pif1* mutant seeds and *luh* mutant seeds germinate under phyB<sub>off</sub> conditions, in which phytochrome B (phyB) is inactivated by a far-red light pulse. LUH interacts with PIF1 at the protein level and binds the promoters of PIF1 targets. It is clear that LUH binding to the promoters of PIF1 targets requires PIF1 because LUH binding is significantly reduced in both red light-irradiated wild-type seeds and *pif1* mutant seeds. Consistent with its known function as a corepressor, we found that LUH represses many PIF1-repressed targets. Unexpectedly, LUH also activates many PIF1-activated targets. Thus, rather than acting as a simple corepressor, our results indicate LUH interacts with PIF1 to coregulate a subset of its targets in imbibed seeds.

## RESULTS

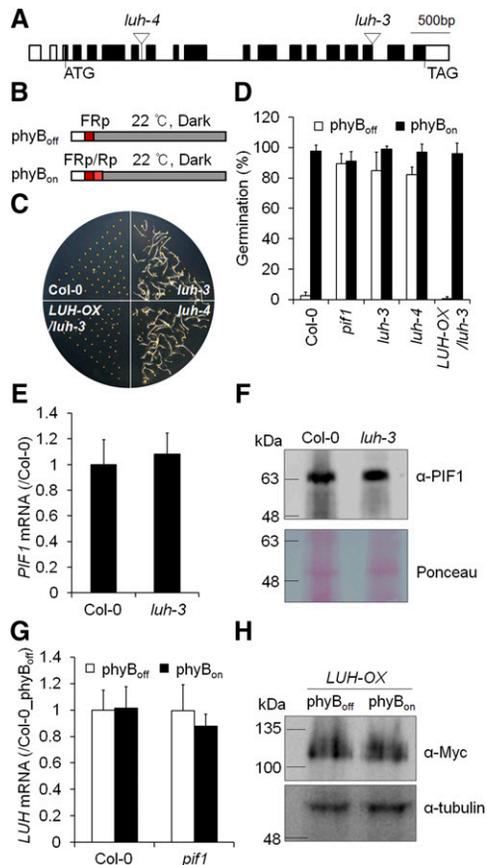
### LUH Inhibits Light-Dependent Seed Germination

Although PIF1 has a transcription activation domain (Huq et al., 2004; Shen et al., 2008), it functions as both a transcriptional activator and a repressor in vivo (Oh et al., 2009). This raises the possibility that PIF1 regulates its target genes in a context-dependent manner by associating with other transcriptional regulators. We asked whether LUG or its homolog LUH, two related Gro family transcriptional corepressors, assist PIF1 to regulate its direct targets in imbibed seeds.

First, we tested whether *lug* or *luh* mutant seeds germinate independent of light like *pif1* mutant seeds (Figure 1). We obtained two independent *luh* mutant alleles from the Salk T-DNA collection (*luh-3* [Sitaraman et al., 2008] and *luh-4* [Stahle et al., 2009]). We then examined the germination of these two independent *luh* mutant alleles (Figure 1A) under phyB<sub>off</sub> and phyB<sub>on</sub> conditions (Figure 1B). Under the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition, imbibed seeds were subjected to a protocol with a far-red light pulse that converts phyB to its inactive Pr form. Under the phyB<sub>on</sub> condition, seeds were subjected to an additional red light pulse that converts phyB to its active Pfr form. We determined the resulting germination frequencies by counting the number of seeds with protruding radicles after 4 d dark incubation following the light treatment. Wild-type seeds germinated well under the phyB<sub>on</sub> condition but not the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition, whereas *pif1* mutant seeds germinated well regardless of light exposure (Figures 1C and 1D). Like the *pif1* mutant seeds, more than 80% of *luh* mutant seeds germinated under the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition (Figures 1C and 1D). Expression of Myc-tagged LUH under the 35S promoter in the *luh-3* background (*LUH-OX/luh-3*) rescued the light-independent germination phenotype of the *luh* mutant, confirming that the *luh* mutation is responsible for the light-independent seed germination of *luh* mutant seeds. The germination kinetics of the *pif1 luh* double

mutant were identical to those of the *pif1* mutant but faster than those of the *luh* mutant (Supplemental Figure 1), indicating epistasis.

As reported, homozygous *lug-444* (Stahle et al., 2009) mutants are infertile and cannot be maintained. Thus, we examined the germination of seeds harvested from *LUG*<sup>+/-</sup> heterozygotes, a quarter of which should be homozygous *lug* mutants. Unlike *luh* mutant seeds, *lug* mutant seeds did not germinate under the phyB<sub>off</sub>



**Figure 1.** LUH Inhibits Light-Dependent Seed Germination.

**(A)** The T-DNA insertion sites for two *luh* mutants are indicated by inverted triangles. Black boxes indicate the *LUH* exons, white boxes indicate the untranslated regions, and the translation start and termination sites are indicated by ATG and TAG, respectively.

**(B)** The phyB<sub>off</sub> and phyB<sub>on</sub> light treatment schemes. Dry seeds were sterilized and irradiated with a far-red light pulse (5 min, 2.59  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition or with a far-red light pulse followed by a red light pulse (5 min, 11.5  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for the phyB<sub>on</sub> condition. Irradiated seeds were then incubated in the dark for various periods. Germination assays were performed on seeds incubated in the dark for 96 h and 4 d, whereas gene expression analysis was performed on seeds incubated in the dark for 12 h.

**(C)** and **(D)** The two *luh* mutants germinate in the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition. This is rescued by the expression of Myc-tagged LUH under the 35S promoter (*LUH-OX/luh-3*) (SD, *n* = 3 biological replicates).

**(E)** and **(F)** Wild-type and *luh-3* seeds show comparable levels of *PIF1* mRNA **(E)** (SD, *n* = 3 biological replicates) and protein **(F)** under the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition.

**(G)** and **(H)** Red light neither alters *LUH* mRNA levels **(G)** (SD, *n* = 3 biological replicates) nor *LUH* protein stability **(H)**.

condition (Supplemental Figure 2). Together, our results implicate LUH as a major transcriptional coregulator of phytochrome-dependent seed germination.

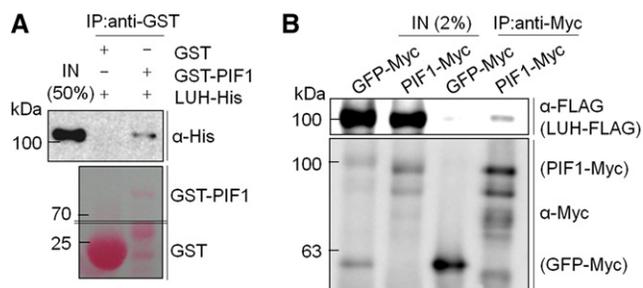
We next asked whether the light-independent germination phenotype of *luh* mutant seeds is caused by their reduced seed mucilage extrusion. According to previous studies (Bui et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2011; Walker et al., 2011), LUH, which is also known as MUM1 (MUCILAGE MODIFIED1), is required for seed coat mucilage extrusion during imbibition. The reduced mucilage extrusion of *luh* mutant seeds has been attributed to their reduced expression of the  $\beta$ -galactosidase *MUM2* (Huang et al., 2011; Walker et al., 2011). To determine whether the defect in mucilage extrusion causes light-independent seed germination, we examined the germination of mucilage extrusion-defective *mum2* mutant seeds (Supplemental Figure 2). Unlike *luh* mutant seeds, *mum2* mutant seeds germinated only under phyB<sub>on</sub> conditions, not phyB<sub>off</sub> conditions. This indicates that mucilage extrusion is unrelated to light-dependent seed germination. The light-independent germination of *luh* mutant seeds was not a consequence of reduced *PIF1* mRNA or PIF1 protein level (Figures 1E and 1F), nor did red light change *LUH* expression or protein stability (Figures 1G and 1H). Since corepressors generally function with other DNA binding transcription factors, our results suggest LUH works either directly with PIF1 or indirectly with other transcription factors that promote PIF1 activity to inhibit the germination of imbibed seeds.

### LUH Interacts with PIF1

If LUH inhibits seed germination as a transcriptional corepressor of PIF1, LUH may physically interact with PIF1. Thus, we performed an in vitro binding assay using recombinant His-tagged LUH (LUH-His) and GST-tagged PIF1 (GST-PIF1) proteins. GST-PIF1, but not GST alone, was capable of pulling down LUH protein when precipitated by glutathione sepharose resin (Figure 2A). This confirmed an in vitro interaction between PIF1 and LUH. We next performed an in vivo binding assay using transgenic lines stably expressing either Myc-tagged PIF1 or GFP (PIF1-Myc or GFP-Myc) and transiently expressing similar levels of FLAG-tagged LUH protein (LUH-FLAG) via *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* infiltration. We immunoprecipitated PIF1-Myc and GFP-Myc with an anti-Myc antibody from infiltrated seedling extracts and detected any coimmunoprecipitated LUH-FLAG with an anti-FLAG antibody. PIF1 coimmunoprecipitated LUH, but GFP did not (Figure 2B). This confirmed that LUH interacts with PIF1.

### LUH Regulates a Subset of PIF1-Regulated Genes

Since LUH interacts with PIF1, a subset of PIF1-regulated genes are likely affected by the *luh* mutation. We previously showed that PIF1 represses two GA biosynthetic genes (*GA3ox1* and *GA3ox2*) and activates a GA catabolic gene (*GA2ox2*). Conversely, PIF1 activates ABA synthetic genes (*ABA1*, *NCED6*, and *NCED9*) and represses an ABA catabolic gene (*CYP707A2*) (Oh et al., 2006, 2007, 2009). We thus examined whether LUH regulates the expression of the PIF1-regulated genes required for the biosynthesis and catabolism of GA and ABA (Figure 3A). To do so, we incubated phyB<sub>off</sub> seeds for 12 h in darkness and sampled them for expression analysis. Compared with wild-type seeds, *luh* mutant seeds expressed higher levels of



**Figure 2.** LUH Interacts with PIF1.

**(A)** GST pull-down assay showing the interaction between recombinant His-tagged LUH (LUH-His) and GST-tagged PIF1 (GST-PIF1). Resin-bound GST or GST-PIF1 proteins were mixed with LUH-His and precipitated. Precipitated proteins were then analyzed by immunoblot using an anti-His antibody. The lower panel shows precipitated GST and GST-PIF1 proteins stained with Ponceau S.

**(B)** In vivo binding assay between FLAG-tagged LUH (LUH-FLAG) and Myc-tagged PIF1 (PIF1-Myc). Seven-day-old, light-grown, stable, transgenic lines expressing Myc-tagged GFP (GFP-Myc) or PIF1-Myc were treated to transiently express LUH-FLAG by *Agrobacterium* infiltration. Myc-tagged proteins were immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and coimmunoprecipitated LUH-FLAG was detected with an anti-FLAG antibody. IN, input samples; IP, immunoprecipitated samples. Both in vitro and in vivo binding assays were performed at least three times, and representative data are shown.

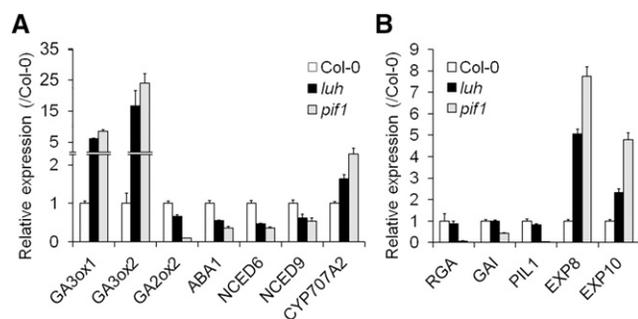
*GA3ox1* and *GA3ox2*, lower levels of *GA2ox2*, lower levels of *ABA1*, *NCED6*, and *NCED9*, and higher levels of *CYP707A2*. These shifts in the expression of GA- and ABA-related genes in *luh* mutant seeds match those for *pif1* mutant seeds. Since the above-mentioned GA and ABA biosynthetic genes are indirectly regulated by PIF1, we also examined the expression of five other PIF1-regulated targets (Figure 3B). We found that *luh* mutant seeds expressed higher levels of two PIF1-repressed target genes (*EXP8* and *EXP10*), but similar levels of three PIF1-activated targets (*RGA*, *GAI*, and *PIL1*). These results indicated that LUH coregulates a subset of PIF1-regulated targets in imbibed seeds.

We expanded this expression analysis using microarray analysis and identified 2295 genes that were differentially expressed [*luh*(D)/*Col-0*(D), >2-fold, false discovery rate (FDR) <0.05] in 12-h dark-incubated *phyB<sub>off</sub>* seeds from a wild-type strain [*Col-0*(D)] and from those of a *luh* mutant [*luh*(D)] (Figure 4A; Supplemental Data Set 1). We will refer to these 2295 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) as LUH-regulated genes. We next compared our list of LUH-regulated genes with a list of 1631 previously reported (Oh et al., 2009) PIF1-regulated genes [*pif1*(D)/*Col-0*(D), >1.5-fold, FDR <0.05] in imbibed seeds and found a significant overlap (207 genes,  $P < 2.25 \times 10^{-12}$ , hypergeometric test) (Figure 4A; Supplemental Data Set 1). Most of the 207 overlapping genes were regulated in the same direction by LUH and PIF1 (Figure 4B), consistent with the hypothesis that these genes are coregulated by LUH and PIF1. We also compared our list of LUH-regulated genes with a list of 2064 previously reported (Oh et al., 2009) red light-regulated genes [*Col-0*(R)/*Col-0*(D), >1.5-fold, FDR <0.05] and found a significant overlap (279 genes,  $P < 7.26 \times 10^{-20}$ , hypergeometric test) (Figure 4A; Supplemental Data Set 1). As with the comparison between LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes, most of

these 279 genes were regulated in the same direction by the *luh* mutation and red light (Figure 4C). Similar expression patterns of LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes could be also visualized by hierarchical clustering (Supplemental Figure 3). Together, our transcriptome analysis is consistent with the hypothesis that LUH and PIF1 coregulate a subset of genes in imbibed seeds.

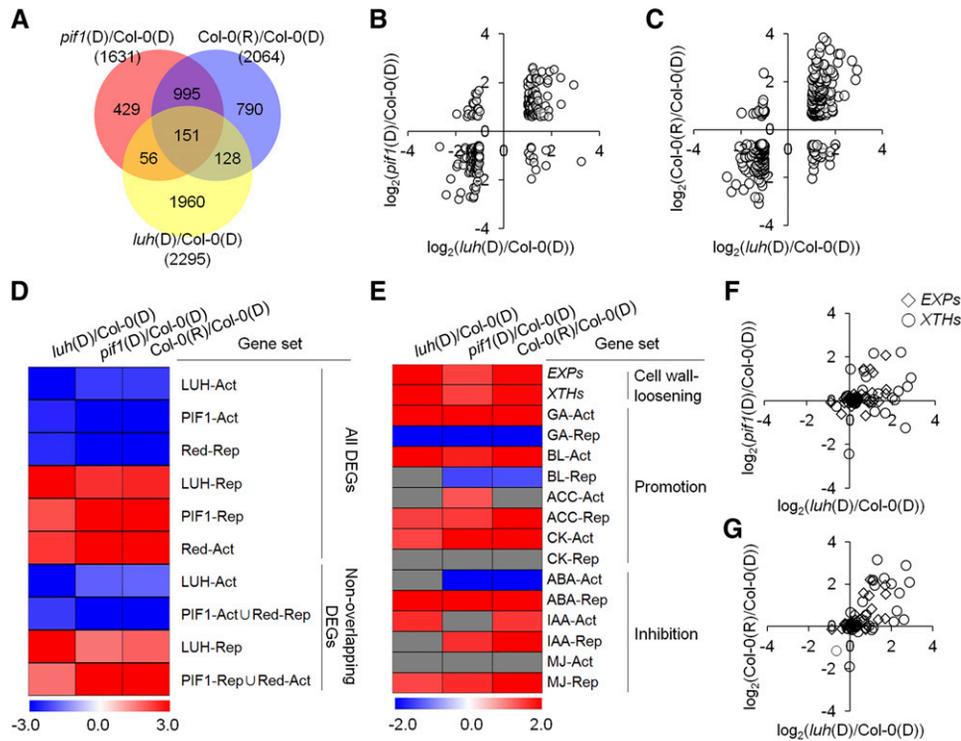
The transcriptome analysis above suggests LUH coregulates a statistically significant but relative small proportion (207 of 1631) of PIF1-regulated genes. However, the stringent cutoffs we used to determine differential expression may have excluded some legitimately coregulated genes. We investigated this possibility using gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) (Subramanian et al., 2005). GSEA determines whether the members of a gene set tend to appear at the top or bottom of a transcriptome gene list ranked by expression fold changes. Sets whose members tend to appear at the top of the ranked transcriptome data show a positive normalized enrichment score (NES), while sets whose members appear at the bottom show a negative NES. To determine if LUH and PIF1 coregulate genes more extensively than the number of small overlapping DEGs suggests, we divided the entire list of LUH-, PIF1-, and red light-regulated genes into LUH-, PIF1-, and red light-activated or -repressed gene sets (Supplemental Data Set 2) and calculated NES values for each set against ranked *luh*(D)/*Col-0*(D), *pif1*(D)/*Col-0*(D), and *Col-0*(R)/*Col-0*(D) transcriptome data.

According to our GSEA, LUH-activated genes were biased toward the bottom of both the *pif1*(D)/*Col-0*(D) data and the *Col-0*(R)/*Col-0*(D) data, meaning LUH-activated genes tend to be repressed in *pif1* mutant seeds and red light-treated wild-type seeds. Similarly, PIF1-activated genes were biased toward the bottom of both the *luh*(D)/*Col-0*(D) data and the *Col-0*(R)/*Col-0*(D) data, and red light-repressed genes were biased toward the bottom of both the *luh*(D)/*Col-0*(D) data and the *pif1*(D)/*Col-0*(D) data (Figure 4D, All DEGs). Reciprocally, LUH- and PIF1-repressed genes and red light-activated genes were biased toward the top of the indicated transcriptome data sets (Figure 4D, All DEGs). This implies an even more substantial overlap between LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes than the small number of overlapping DEGs in the Figure 4A Venn diagram suggests.



**Figure 3.** LUH Regulates a Subset of PIF1-Regulated Genes in Imbibed Seeds.

**(A)** The expression levels of GA and ABA biosynthetic genes in wild-type, *luh-3* mutant, and *pif1* mutant seeds treated with a far-red light pulse for 5 min and incubated for 12 h in darkness (*phyB<sub>off</sub>* condition) (SD,  $n = 3$  biological replicates). **(B)** The expression levels of PIF1-regulated targets under the *phyB<sub>off</sub>* condition (SD,  $n = 3$  biological replicates).



**Figure 4.** LUH and PIF1 Coregulate Genes in Imbibed Seeds.

**(A)** A Venn diagram summarizing the overlap of differentially expressed genes from imbibed *pif1*, *luh*, and red light-treated seeds. X(D) and Y(R) indicate 12-h dark-incubated X seeds and 12-h red light-incubated Y seeds, respectively. X(D)/Z(D) indicates the transcriptome comparison between 12-h dark-incubated seeds of the X and Z genotypes. Numbers indicate the numbers of DEGs.

**(B)** and **(C)** Dot plots comparing the  $\log_2$ -transformed expression levels of 207 LUH and PIF1 coregulated genes **(B)** or 279 LUH and red light coregulated genes **(C)** in *luh* mutant, *pif1* mutant, and red light-treated wild-type seeds.

**(D)** GSEA plotted as a heat map of NESs. All LUH-, PIF1-, or red light-regulated genes (All DEGs) were divided into activated (X-Act) and repressed (X-Rep) gene sets. Alternatively, only DEGs appearing uniquely in the list of LUH-regulated genes or in the union of PIF1- or red light-regulated genes (Non-overlapping DEGs) were divided into activated and repressed gene sets. An NES for each gene set was determined in the *luh(D)/Col-0(D)*, *pif1(D)/Col-0(D)*, and *Col-0(R)/Col-0(D)* transcriptome data sets and plotted on the heat map.

**(E)** GSEA plotted as a heat map of NESs. Various hormone-responsive genes were divided into hormone-activated (X-Act) and -repressed (X-Rep) gene sets. Cell wall loosening genes (*EXPs* and *XTHs*) were also used as gene sets. An NES for each gene set was determined in the *luh(D)/Col-0(D)*, *pif1(D)/Col-0(D)*, and *Col-0(R)/Col-0(D)* transcriptome data sets and plotted on the heat map. The gray cells have an FDR > 0.05 and are thus nonsignificant. Germination-promoting hormones are labeled “Promotion,” while germination-inhibiting hormones are labeled “Inhibition.” BL, brassinolide; ACC, 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid; CK, zeatin; IAA, indole-3-acetic acid; MJ, methyl jasmonate.

**(F)** and **(G)** Dot plots comparing the  $\log_2$ -transformed expression levels of 36 *EXP* (open diamonds) and 33 *XTH* (open circles) genes in *luh* and *pif1* mutant seeds **(F)** or in *luh* mutant and red light-treated wild-type seeds **(G)**.

We also performed a second, similar GSEA, limiting the gene sets to those unique to the LUH-regulated DEGs or unique to the PIF1- and red light-regulated DEGs (Supplemental Data Set 2). By excluding the overlapping DEGs, we were asking if unique DEGs alone also showed the bias to the top or bottom of the ranked transcriptome data. The removal of the overlapping DEGs from the GSEA reduced the resulting NES values (Figure 4D, Non-overlapping DEGs), but still revealed a trend toward apparent coregulation. This indicated that the unique DEGs are also coregulated by LUH and PIF1, though less coherently than the overlapping DEGs.

PIF1 inhibits seed germination by repressing cell wall loosening and by coordinating hormone responses (Oh et al., 2009). We thus investigated whether LUH also regulates these processes

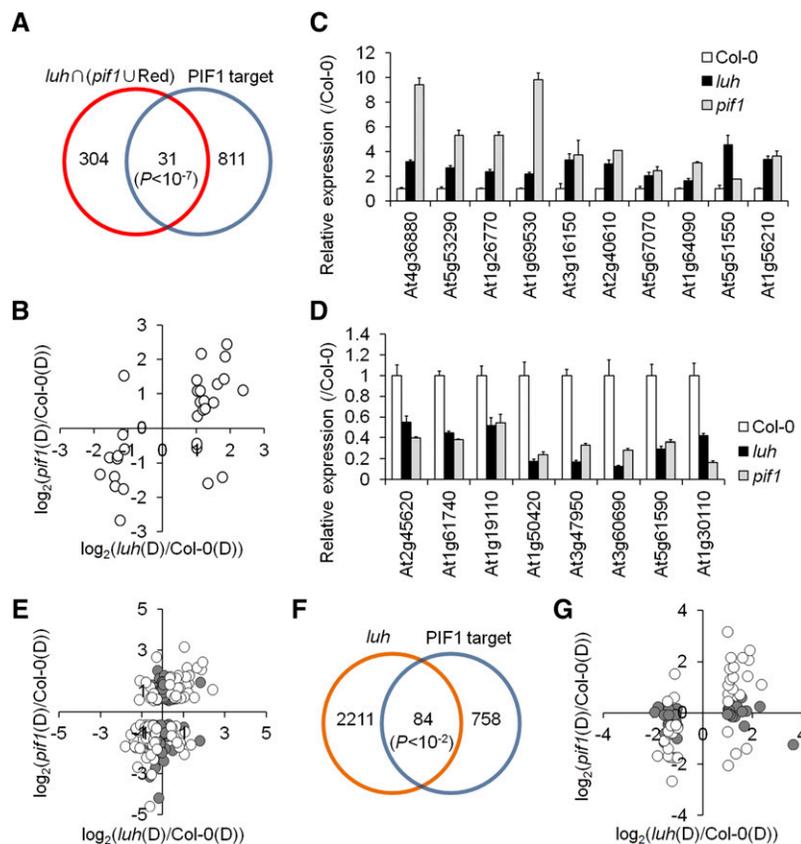
by performing a GSEA using gene sets comprising either cell wall loosening genes (*EXPs* [Lee et al., 2001] and *XTHs* [Rose et al., 2002]) or hormone-related genes (Nemhauser et al., 2006; Goda et al., 2008) (Supplemental Data Set 3). Both the *EXPs* and the *XTHs*, two types of cell wall loosening genes, were biased toward the top of the *luh(D)/Col-0(D)*, *pif1(D)/Col-0(D)*, and *Col-0(R)/Col-0(D)* data sets (Figure 4E). This means the *EXPs* and *XTHs* tend to be activated in the *luh* mutant, the *pif1* mutant, and in red light-treated wild-type seeds. Plotting the expression patterns of all 36 *EXP* genes and 33 *XTH* genes in dot plots made it clear that many were coincided by the *luh* mutation, the *pif1* mutation, and the red light treatment (Figures 4F and 4G). Together, these results indicated that LUH, PIF1, and darkness all repress cell wall loosening genes in imbibed seeds.

To explore the potential coregulation of the hormone signaling pathways that control seed germination, we divided the hormone-responsive gene sets (Nemhauser et al., 2006; Goda et al., 2008) into those that promote germination and those that inhibit germination (Figure 4E). Of the germination-promoting hormone gene sets, GA-activated genes were biased toward the top of the *luh*(D)/Col-0(D), *pif1*(D)/Col-0(D), and Col-0(R)/Col-0(D) data sets, while GA-repressed genes tended to occur at the bottom (Figure 4E). This means GA signaling is activated in *luh* mutant, *pif1* mutant, and red light-treated wild-type seeds. Similarly, brassinolide-activated genes were biased toward the top of *luh*(D)/Col-0(D), *pif1*(D)/Col-0(D), and Col-0(R)/Col-0(D) data sets, while brassinolide-repressed genes were biased toward the bottom of the *pif1*(D)/Col-0(D) and Col-0(R)/Col-0(D) data sets but not the *luh*(D)/Col-0(D) data set. Of the germination-inhibiting hormone gene sets, ABA-repressed and methyl jasmonate-repressed genes were biased toward the

top of the *luh*(D)/Col-0(D), *pif1*(D)/Col-0(D), and Col-0(R)/Col-0(D) data sets. ABA-activated genes were biased toward the bottom of the *pif1*(D)/Col-0(D) and Col-0(R)/Col-0(D) data sets but not the *luh*(D)/Col-0(D) data set. Thus, the expression patterns of hormone-related genes in *luh* mutant seeds and *pif1* mutant or red light-treated wild-type seeds are similar but not identical.

### LUH Regulates a Subset of Genes Both Directly Activated and Directly Repressed by PIF1

The PIF1-regulated genes identified in the microarray above included both direct and indirect PIF1 targets. By comparing PIF1 targets with the 335 overlapping DEGs from the comparison of the LUH-regulated genes with the combined PIF1- and red light-regulated genes, we identified 31 PIF1 targets strongly regulated by both LUH and PIF1 in imbibed seeds (Figure 5A; Supplemental



**Figure 5.** LUH Regulates a Subset of Genes Both Directly Activated and Directly Repressed by PIF1.

**(A)** Venn diagram identifying 31 PIF1 targets whose expression is regulated by LUH and PIF1. The significance of the overlap was determined with a hypergeometric test ( $P < 1.29 \times 10^{-9}$ ).

**(B)** Dot plot comparing the  $\log_2$ -transformed expression levels of these 31 genes in *pif1* and *luh* mutant seeds.

**(C)** and **(D)** Validation of the expression patterns for 10 PIF1-repressed targets **(C)** and 8 PIF1-activated targets **(D)** in *luh* and *pif1* mutant seeds exposed to the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition (SD,  $n = 3$  biological replicates).

**(E)** Dot plot comparing the  $\log_2$ -transformed expression levels of 188 PIF1-regulated targets in *luh* and *pif1* mutant seeds. Empty circles indicate genes significantly regulated (FDR < 0.05) by both PIF1 and LUH.

**(F)** Venn diagram identifying 84 PIF1 targets whose expression is also regulated by LUH ( $P = 0.004627$ , hypergeometric test).

**(G)** Dot plot comparing the  $\log_2$ -transformed expression levels in the *luh* and the *pif1* mutant seeds of the 84 PIF1 targets whose expression is also regulated by LUH. Empty circles indicate genes significantly regulated (FDR < 0.05) by both PIF1 and LUH.

Data Set 4). We next visualized the expression patterns of these 31 genes using a dot plot. The expression of the 15 genes in the upper-right quadrant was increased in both the *luh* and *pi1* mutants, meaning these were LUH- and PIF1-repressed genes. The 11 genes in the lower-left quadrant were LUH- and PIF1-activated genes. The remaining five genes were regulated in opposite directions by LUH and PIF1 (Figure 5B). Using quantitative PCR, we were able to validate the direction of the changes in expression for 18 genes arbitrarily chosen from the 26 coregulated by LUH and PIF1. The expression levels of 10 genes were elevated in both the *luh* and the *pi1* mutants (Figure 5C), and the levels of eight genes were reduced (Figure 5D). These results indicated that LUH regulates in the same direction genes both directly activated and directly repressed by PIF1.

We next plotted all 188 PIF1-regulated targets to rule out any bias introduced by limiting our analysis to the 31 PIF1 targets whose expression was strongly regulated both by LUH and PIF1 (Figure 5E). Of the 72 PIF1-repressed targets falling in quadrants 1 and 2, 30 were significantly repressed (FDR < 0.05) by LUH (quadrant 1), while 12 were significantly activated (FDR < 0.05) by LUH (quadrant 2). Similarly, of the 116 PIF1-activated targets falling in quadrants 3 and 4, 55 were significantly activated (FDR < 0.05) by LUH (quadrant 3) and 11 genes were significantly repressed (FDR < 0.05) by LUH (quadrant 4). We also determined the expression patterns of 84 LUH-regulated PIF1 targets (Figures 5F and 5G; Supplemental Data Set 5). These 84 LUH-regulated PIF1 targets were PIF1 targets that showed a >2-fold change in expression in *luh* mutant seeds, regardless of their expression level in *pi1* mutant seeds. Among them, 39 genes were repressed by LUH (quadrants 1 and 4) and 45 were activated by LUH (quadrants 2 and 3). Of the 39 LUH-repressed genes, 16 genes were significantly repressed (FDR < 0.05) by PIF1 (quadrant 1) and 4 were significantly activated (FDR < 0.05) by PIF1 (quadrant 4). Three of these genes were not included in the Affymetrix probe set. Similarly, of the 45 LUH-activated genes, 16 were significantly activated (FDR < 0.05) by PIF1 (quadrant 3) and 3 were significantly repressed (FDR < 0.05) by PIF1 (quadrant 2). Six of these genes were not included in the Affymetrix probe set. Taken together, these results indicated that LUH represses many PIF1-repressed targets and activates many PIF1-activated targets. In other words, LUH acts not as a simple corepressor, but in a way consistent with the notion of a coregulator that either activates or represses its targets depending on context.

### LUH Binds a Subset of PIF1 Target Promoters

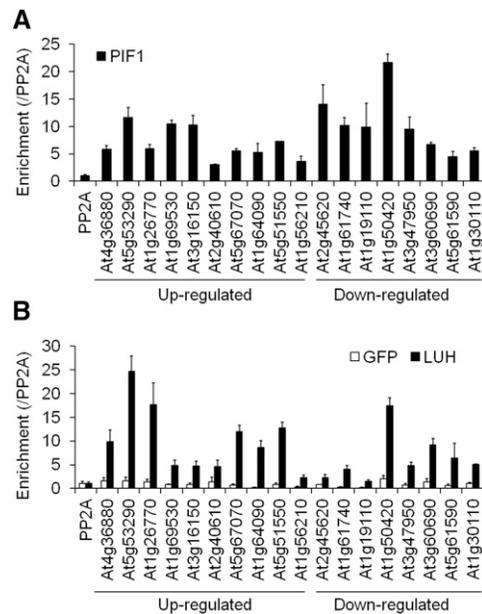
Although LUG lacks a DNA binding domain, it can bind target promoters and regulate their expression via physical interactions with other transcription factors. Thus, LUH likely binds the promoters of the targets it coregulates with PIF1 in imbibed seeds via its physical interaction with PIF1. The 18 genes in Figures 5C and 5D that were regulated in the same direction by both PIF1 and LUH are good candidates for cotargets. We thus performed a chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assay using transgenic lines expressing Myc-tagged LUH (*LUH-OX*), Myc-tagged PIF1 (*PIF1-OX*), or Myc-tagged GFP (*GFP-OX*) to determine if LUH also binds these 18 promoters. We irradiated seeds of each genotype with far-red light for 5 min and incubated them in the dark for 12 h before preparing the samples for the ChIP assay. As expected, PIF1 enriched

promoter fragments of all 18 genes above that of the nonbinding *PP2A* control promoter (Figure 6A). Under the same conditions, LUH also enriched nearly all of these same promoter fragments above that of the nonbinding *PP2A* control promoter (Figure 6B). GFP did not enrich any of them. These results indicated both LUH and PIF1 bind these 18 promoters.

### Binding of LUH to Its Target Promoters Is Partly PIF1 Dependent

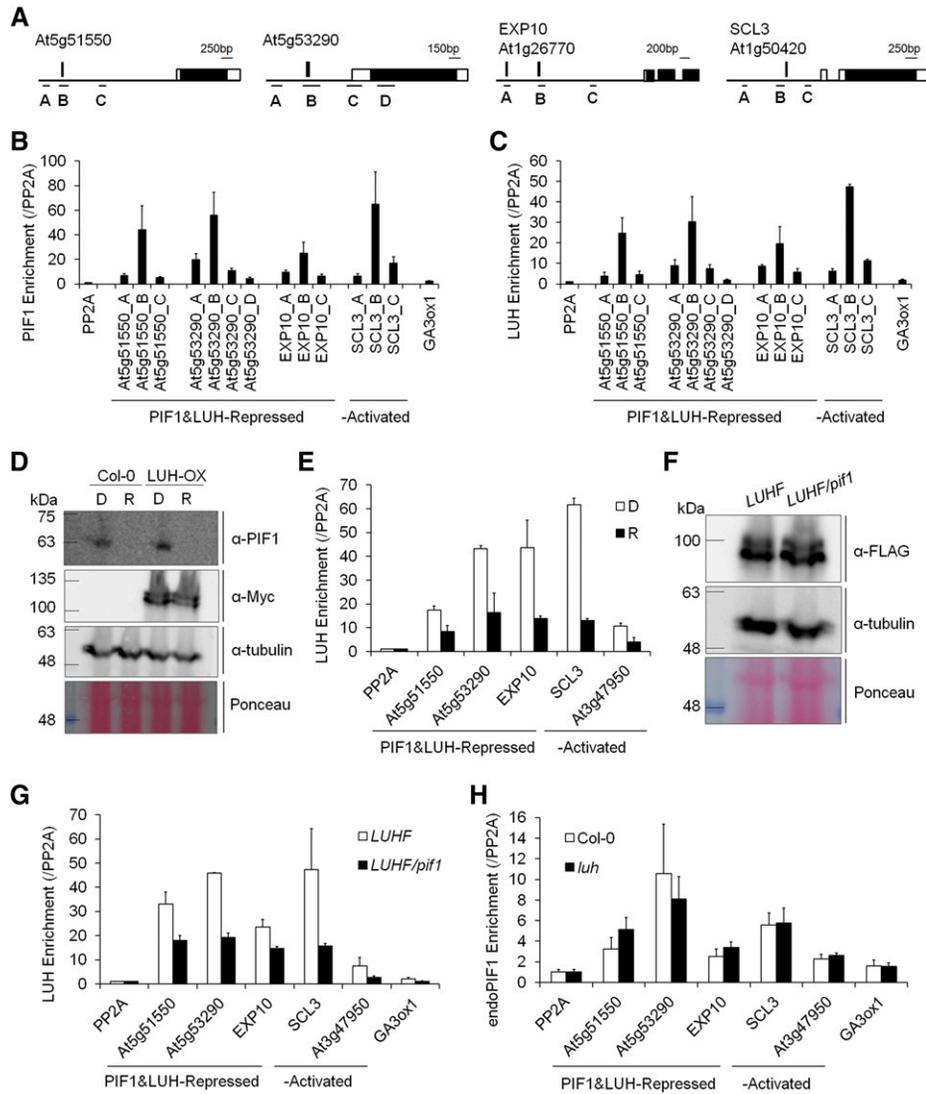
To determine whether LUH is binding its targets via its interaction with PIF1, we selected four genes (*At5g51550*, *At5g53290*, *EXP10*, and *SCL3*) enriched in both the LUH-ChIP and PIF1-ChIP experiments for further analysis and designed primer sets to amplify different fragments of their promoters (Figure 7A). LUH activated one of these genes (*SCL3*) and repressed the other three (*At5g51550*, *At5g53290*, and *EXP10*). Consistent with our previous ChIP-chip data, PIF1 enriched the fragment of each target gene promoter that contains the PIF1 binding site (fragment B) more than fragments A, C, and D and much more than two nonbinding *PP2A* and *GA3ox1* promoter fragments (Figure 7B). LUH also enriched the PIF1 binding site-containing fragments of each promoter (the B fragments) more than control fragments (Figure 7C).

We next asked whether LUH binding is affected by red light. Since red light destabilizes PIF1, LUH binding to its target promoters should decrease if LUH is binding via its physical interaction



**Figure 6.** LUH and PIF1 Bind an Overlapping Subset of Genes in Imbibed Seeds.

Enrichment of 18 PIF1-regulated target promoters by PIF1 (A) and LUH (B). ChIP assays were performed with an anti-Myc antibody using imbibed phyB<sub>off</sub> *GFP-OX* (GFP), *LUH-OX* (LUH), and *PIF1-OX* (PIF1) seeds. The enrichment of each promoter was normalized both by the level of input DNA and by the ChIP enrichment value of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter (SD, *n* = 3 biological replicates). Genes whose expression was either up- or downregulated in both *luh* and *pi1* mutant seeds are indicated.



**Figure 7.** PIF1 Recruits LUH to Target Promoters.

**(A)** ChIP amplicons for the *At5g53290*, *At5g51550*, *EXP10*, and *SCL3* loci. Black and white boxes indicate exons and untranslated regions, respectively, vertical bars indicate PIF1 binding sites, and the ChIP amplicons are labeled with capital letters.

**(B)** and **(C)** Enrichment profiles for each promoter fragment by PIF1 **(B)** and LUH **(C)**. ChIP assays were performed using imbibed phyB<sub>off</sub>LUH-OX (LUH) and PIF1-OX (PIF1) seeds. The enrichment of each promoter was normalized both by the level of input DNA and by the ChIP enrichment value of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter (SE, *n* = 3 biological replicates).

**(D)** Immunoblot showing endogenous PIF1 levels detected with an anti-PIF1 antibody (α-PIF1) and Myc-tagged LUH levels detected with an anti-Myc antibody (α-Myc) in the wild type (Col-0) and an Myc-tagged LUH overexpression (*LUH-OX*) line. Imbibed phyB<sub>off</sub> seeds were incubated for 6 h in either the dark (D) or in red light (R). α-Tubulin detected with an antitubulin antibody and Ponceau S staining were used as loading controls.

**(E)** Reduced enrichment of target promoters by LUH under red light. The enrichment of each promoter was normalized both by the level of input DNA and by the ChIP enrichment value of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter (SE, *n* = 2 biological replicates).

**(F)** Immunoblot showing similar levels of FLAG-tagged LUH in *LUHF* and the *LUHF/pif1* genotypes. The *LUHF* and *LUHF/pif1* genotypes indicate stable transgenic lines expressing FLAG-tagged LUH in the wild-type and *pif1* mutant backgrounds, respectively. Imbibed phyB<sub>off</sub> seeds were incubated for 12 h in the dark. α-Tubulin detected with an antitubulin antibody and Ponceau S staining were used as loading controls.

**(G)** Reduced enrichment of target promoters by LUH in the absence of PIF1. The enrichment of each promoter was normalized both by the level of input DNA and by the ChIP enrichment value of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter (SE, *n* = 2 biological replicates).

**(H)** Comparable enrichment of target promoters by endogenous PIF1 in wild-type and *luh* mutant backgrounds. ChIP assays were performed with an anti-PIF1 antibody using imbibed phyB<sub>off</sub> seeds. The enrichment of each promoter was normalized both by the level of input DNA and by the ChIP enrichment value of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter (SE, *n* = 2 biological replicates).



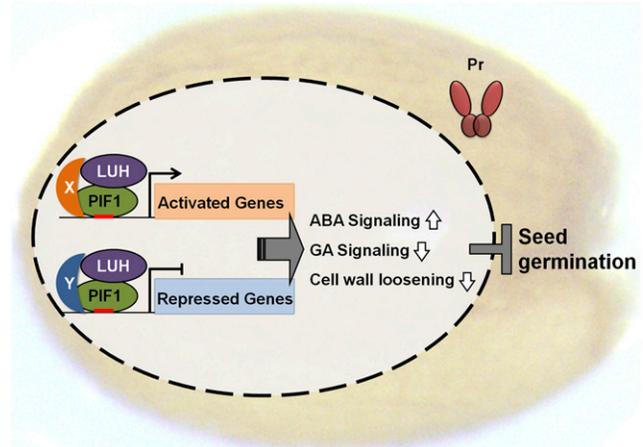
with PIF1. We irradiated *LUH-OX* seeds with far-red light for 5 min and incubated them for 6 h in either the dark or continuous red light. As expected, PIF1 accumulated in dark-incubated seeds but not in red light-incubated seeds (Figure 7D). LUH levels, by contrast, were unaffected by red light (Figure 7D). According to the ChIP assay using fragment B, LUH enriched all four target promoters above that of the nonbinding *PP2A* promoter in both dark- and red light-incubated imbibed seeds (Figure 7E). However, the degree of enrichment was significantly higher in the dark-incubated seeds than the red light-incubated seeds (Figure 7E). This is consistent with LUH binding showing a strong, albeit incomplete PIF1 dependence.

Finally, we examined the ability of LUH to enrich the same target promoters in the *pif1* mutant. To do so, we performed ChIP assays using dark-incubated imbibed seeds from transgenic plants expressing FLAG-tagged LUH in both the wild-type (*LUHF*) and *pif1* mutant (*LUHF/pif1*) backgrounds. Both transgenic lines expressed similar levels of LUH protein (Figure 7F). Like the Myc-tagged LUH, FLAG-tagged LUH also enriched the same target promoters more than the nonbinding *PP2A* and *GA3ox1* promoters (Figure 7G). This LUH enrichment was significantly reduced in the *pif1* mutant background, consistent with substantial PIF1-dependent LUH binding. Interestingly, though, the pattern of LUH enrichment peaking at fragment B was still similar (Supplemental Figure 4), suggesting that LUH also targets similar promoters by binding to factors in addition to PIF1. Unlike LUH, PIF1 bound to its target promoters irrespective of the *luh* mutation (Figure 7H). Together, our results indicate LUH regulates gene expression in imbibed seeds partly via its interaction with PIF1.

## DISCUSSION

We showed previously that PIF1, a basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor, inhibits phytochrome-dependent seed germination by regulating various hormone- and cell wall-related genes in imbibed seeds. PIF1 has 842 targets across the Arabidopsis genome and regulates the expression of 188 genes in imbibed seeds, activating 116 and repressing 72 (Oh et al., 2009). In this study, we show that LUH, a Gro family corepressor, physically interacts with PIF1 to bind and either activate or repress subsets of PIF1-regulated targets (Figure 8). Both *luh* mutant seeds and *pif1* mutant seeds share a remarkably similar gene expression profile characterized by activated GA signaling and increased expression of cell wall loosening genes. These changes promote germination to the point that, like *pif1* mutant seeds, more than 80% of *luh* mutant seeds germinate under phyB<sub>off</sub> conditions. Thus, our results implicate LUH as an important and previously undiscovered coregulator of seed germination working with PIF1.

LUH and the closely related LUG both belong to the Gro family of proteins. Studies in yeast and protoplasts support their functional classification as a family of transcriptional corepressors (Sridhar et al., 2004, 2006; Gonzalez et al., 2007; Shrestha et al., 2014). Our data, rather, suggest LUH acts as a transcriptional coregulator, apparently by both activating and repressing its targets in imbibed seeds. Of its 188 known PIF1-regulated targets in imbibed seeds, PIF1 activates 1.6 times more genes than it represses (i.e., 116 genes activated and 72 genes repressed). This ratio represents a significant bias toward activation ( $P = 0.001712$ ,  $\chi^2$  test). Of these



**Figure 8.** A Model Depicting How LUH Inhibits Light-Dependent Seed Germination.

In the dark, when phytochromes are in the cytosol in their inactive Pr form, PIF1 binds various promoters and recruits LUH in a context-dependent manner to either activate or repress its target genes in imbibed seeds. This increases ABA signaling, decreases GA signaling, and decreases cell wall loosening, ultimately inhibiting seed germination. Although showing a slight bias toward corepression, LUH is capable of both coactivating PIF1-activated targets and corepressing PIF1-repressed targets. This model also suggests the existence of one or more unidentified factors (X and Y) that permit the context-dependent switching of the PIF1-LUH complex from an activator to a repressor. Genes independently regulated by either PIF1 or LUH are not included in the model. In the light, phytochromes in their active Pfr form enter the nucleus and inhibit PIF1 both by dissociating it from DNA and promoting its degradation.

188 genes, 85 are significantly regulated by both LUH and PIF1 in the same direction. According to our microarray data, of these 85 genes, 55 are coactivated by LUH and PIF1 and 30 are corepressed (Figure 5E). This ratio is not significantly different from the ratio of 116 PIF1-activated and 72 PIF1-repressed genes ( $P = 0.6469$ ,  $\chi^2$  test), implying no particular bias of the interactions of LUH with PIF1 toward corepression.

LUH's dual role as both a coactivator and a corepressor may extend to LUG and other Gro family members. By comparing the transcriptome of *lug* mutant flowers (Gonzalez et al., 2007) with a ChIP-seq data set for SEP3 (Kaufmann et al., 2009), a transcription factor that recruits LUG (Sridhar et al., 2006) to its targets, we identified 131 SEP3 targets whose expression is significantly altered in the absence of LUG (Supplemental Figure 5). Of these, 79 genes are activated by LUG and 52 are repressed, displaying no bias toward corepression. In addition, TLE1, a mammalian Gro family member that interacts with the estrogen receptor is required for RNA polymerase II recruitment to a subset of estrogen receptor target promoters (Holmes et al., 2012). This also suggests that TLE1 is not a simple corepressor, but a transcriptional coregulator that can either activate or repress its targets.

This study still has unresolved issues that will have to be addressed in future studies. Both LUH and LUG can interact with transcription factors either directly or indirectly through SEU or SLKs. Specifically, LUG interacts with AP1 and SEP3 only through an SEU adaptor protein (Sridhar et al., 2006). However, YABBY

family transcription factors interact with LUH and LUG both directly and indirectly via SEU and SLKs (Stahle et al., 2009). Similarly, TPR/TPL, another Gro family corepressor, also interacts with transcription factors both directly (Kieffer et al., 2006; Long et al., 2006) and indirectly (Pauwels et al., 2010; Causier et al., 2012). Although we show that PIF1 interacts directly with LUH in vitro in the absence of both SEU and SLK adaptor proteins (Figure 2), it remains possible that SEU and/or SLK adaptor proteins are involved in vivo.

The precise tissues in the seed where LUH exerts its influence on germination are still unclear. It is clear that PIF1 suppresses GA signaling and activates ABA signaling by regulating the expression of both biosynthetic and signaling genes in each pathway (Oh et al., 2006, 2007, 2009). In the light, activated phytochromes promote seed germination by inhibiting PIF1 and thus increasing GA signaling and decreasing ABA signaling. PIF1 is known to function in both the embryo and the endosperm. Although all phytochromes function in the embryo to promote seed germination, presumably by inhibiting PIF1, phyB but not phyA inhibits PIF1 in the endosperm to reduce the amount of ABA entering the embryo (Lee et al., 2010, 2012). Both *PIF1* and *LUH* mRNAs are expressed in the embryo and the endosperm, but whereas *PIF1* expression is even in each tissue, *LUH* levels are higher in the endosperm (Penfield et al., 2006; Walker et al., 2011). This suggests LUH, like PIF1, may function in both tissues. Consistent with this hypothesis, the overlapping DEGs among LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes are expressed in both the embryo and the endosperm (Supplemental Figure 6). Nonoverlapping LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes are also expressed similarly in both tissues. These expression patterns suggest LUH functions with PIF1 in both the embryo and the endosperm. Further transcriptome analyses using separated embryos and endosperms of *pif1* and *luh* mutants coupled with seed coat bedding assays will help to further clarify the precise tissue requirements for LUH.

Finally, context-dependent switching of the mode by which coregulators function is found not only in PIFs but also in other plant transcription factors. For example, SVP, a MADS box transcription factor that inhibits flowering, directly activates 77 genes in the vegetative stage of Arabidopsis development and directly represses another 31 (Gregis et al., 2013). During soybean (*Glycine max*) seedling development, NAC activates 21 genes and represses 10, while YABBY activates 27 genes and represses 19 (Shamimuzzaman and Vodkin, 2013). Similar context-dependent switching has also been observed with animal transcription factors. In *Drosophila*, for example, Suppressor of hairless [Su(H)] represses the expression of *Enhancer of split* [*E(Spl)*] in the absence of Notch signaling but activates *E(Spl)* upon Notch activation (Cinnamon and Paroush, 2008). This context-dependent switching of Su(H) likely depends upon its binding to either the Hairy/Gro repressor complex (Barolo et al., 2002; Nagel et al., 2005) or the Notch-ICD activator complex (Bailey and Posakony, 1995; Artavanis-Tsakonas et al., 1999). Another good example from *Drosophila* is Dorsal, a Rel family transcription factor that directly activates *twi*, *sna*, and *miR-1* in the presumptive mesoderm, but directly represses *Dpp* in the mesoderm and neuroectoderm via an association with the Gro corepressor (Zeitlinger et al., 2007). To account for the apparently context-dependent switch in LUH's mode of action from corepressor to coactivator,

the data we present here suggest the presence of one or more partners for LUH, PIF1, or both (Figure 8). Such factors have not yet been identified.

## METHODS

### Plant Materials and Growth Conditions

*Arabidopsis thaliana* plants were grown in a growth room with a 16-h-light/8-h-dark cycle at 22 to 24°C for general growth and seed harvesting. All mutants in this study are T-DNA insertion lines obtained from the ABRC: *luh-3* (Salk\_107245), *luh-4* (Salk\_097509), *pif1* (Salk\_131872), *pil5-2*; (Penfield et al., 2005), *mum2-sk25* (Salk\_015025), *mum2-sk46* (Salk\_022846), *mum2-sk21* (Salk\_060221), and *lug-444* (Salk\_126444). To generate the *LUH-OX* transgenic lines expressing Myc-tagged LUH, a full-length *LUH* cDNA was amplified (for primers, see Supplemental Data Set 6), cloned into a modified pBI121 vector, and introduced into the wild-type strain Col-0. The *LUH-OX/luh-3* transgenic line expressing Myc-tagged LUH was generated by cloning the full-length *LUH* cDNA into a pCambia1300 vector and introducing it into the *luh-3* background. For the two transgenic lines expressing FLAG-tagged LUH, the full-length *LUH* cDNA was cloned into a pCambia1300 vector modified for expressing FLAG-tagged proteins and introduced into the wild-type or *pif1* backgrounds. All tags are attached to the C terminus of LUH. Myc-tagged PIF1- or GFP-expressing *PIF1-OX* and *GFP-OX* transgenic lines correspond to the previously described *PIL5-OX3* and *GFP-Myc* (Oh et al., 2007). All plants used in these experiments were of the Col-0 ecotype background.

### phyB-Mediated Seed Germination Assays

Seeds were surface sterilized, plated on Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium containing 0.6% phytoagar without sucrose and imbibed for 1 h at 22°C under white light ( $15 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ). The plates were irradiated with far-red light ( $2.59 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for 5 min ( $\text{phyB}_{\text{off}}$ ) or far-red light followed by red light ( $11.5 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for 5 min ( $\text{phyB}_{\text{on}}$ ). After incubation for 4 d in the dark at 22°C, germination frequencies were determined by counting the numbers of seeds with protruding radicles.

### RNA Isolation and Gene Expression Quantification

For gene expression analysis, seeds were irradiated with far-red light ( $2.59 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for 5 min ( $\text{phyB}_{\text{off}}$ ) and then incubated for 12 h in the dark. Total RNAs were isolated using the Spectrum plant total RNA kit (Sigma-Aldrich) according to the manufacturer's protocol and converted to cDNA using MMLV-RTase (Promega). The transcript levels were determined by real-time PCR using specific primer sets (Supplemental Data Set 6) and normalized with respect to the expression levels of *PP2A*.

### Protein Analysis

For protein analysis, seeds were irradiated with far-red light ( $2.59 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for 5 min ( $\text{phyB}_{\text{off}}$ ) and imbibed for 12 h in the dark, except for Figure 7D. The seeds were then frozen in liquid nitrogen, ground to a fine powder, dissolved in urea-based denaturing buffer (100 mM  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 8 M urea, and 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0), and cleared by centrifugation at 20,000g for 10 min at 4°C. The extracted total proteins were then boiled for 5 min at 100°C, and protein levels were determined by immunoblot analysis using an anti-c-Myc antibody (sc-789, lot number D1715; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), an anti-FLAG antibody (F7425, lot number 093M4798; Sigma-Aldrich), an anti-His antibody (sc-803, lot number J3111; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), a goat anti-rabbit antibody (sc-2004, lot number K0414; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), and an antibody against endogenous PIF1 (Park et al., 2012).

## ChIP

ChIP was performed as described previously (Oh et al., 2007). Briefly, 60 mg dry seed was imbibed for 1 h, irradiated with far-red light for 5 min (phyB<sub>off</sub>), incubated for 12 h in the dark, and then cross-linked in 1% formaldehyde solution under vacuum for 1 h in the dark. Chromatin was isolated and sonicated with a Bioruptor 12 times (30 s on/30 s off cycles and high-power output) to obtain 200- to 600-bp DNA fragments. The sonicated chromatin was precipitated with antibodies against Myc (2276S, lot number 24; Cell Signaling) or FLAG (F7425, lot number 093M4798; Sigma-Aldrich). Reverse cross-linking and proteinase K treatment using an elution buffer containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 5 mM EDTA, 50 mM NaCl, 1% SDS, and 50 mg/mL proteinase K were performed for at least 6 h at 68°C, and the immunoprecipitated DNA was purified by phenol/chloroform extraction. The enriched DNA levels were quantified by real-time PCR using specific primer sets (Supplemental Data Set 6).

## In Vitro Binding Assay

To express recombinant His-tagged LUH, a full-length *LUH* cDNA was cloned into a pET22b-CPD vector. For the in vitro binding assay, glutathione-agarose bead-bound GST or GST-fused PIF1 protein expressed from a modified pET50 vector was mixed with His-tagged LUH in a binding buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1% [v/v] Triton X-100, 0.5 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 1 mM DTT, and 1× complete protease inhibitor cocktail) for 4 h at 4°C in the dark. After incubation, glutathione-agarose beads were collected by centrifugation at 340g for 1 min and washed three times with 500 μL binding buffer. Precipitated proteins were detected by immunoblot analysis.

## In Vivo Binding Assay

Seven-day-old light grown Myc-tagged GFP (*GFP-OX*) or Myc-tagged PIF1 (*PIF1-OX*) transgenic seedlings were exposed to *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-based infiltration to induce transient expression of LUH-FLAG. Briefly, GV3101 cells carrying the binary *LUH-FLAG* construct were suspended in half-strength MS solution (0.5× MS, 5% sucrose, and 0.05% MES, pH 5.7) and used to infiltrate the seedlings under a vacuum (2 min of vacuum, break, 2 min of vacuum). Infiltrated seedlings were grown further for 2 d under white light and transferred to the dark for 6 h followed by a 5 min far-red pulse treatment before sampling. For the in vivo binding assay, 2 g of seedlings were homogenized in 1 mL lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1% Nonidet P-40, 50 μM MG132, and 1× complete protease inhibitor cocktail). Samples were centrifuged at 20,000g at 4°C for 10 min, and then the supernatant was collected in a new tube. Three microliters of anti-Myc antibody (2276S, lot number 24; Cell Signaling) was added and incubated at 4°C for 4 h in the dark. Then, 40 μL protein A-agarose beads (20333; Pierce) was added and further incubated for 2 h to immunoprecipitate Myc-tagged GFP or PIF1. After incubation, the beads were washed three times with 1 mL lysis buffer and then boiled.

## Microarray Analysis

For the transcriptome analyses, total RNA samples were isolated as biological triplicates from Col-0 and *luh* mutant seeds as described above. The Agilent Arabidopsis Genome 44k chip was used, and the data were analyzed in R with packages from Bioconductor. Background correction and normalization between and within arrays were performed using the LIMMA package. Then, *lmFit* and *eBayes* were used to fit a linear model for each probe set and to compute statistics. DEGs were defined as genes with a FDR < 0.05 and with at least a 2-fold difference in expression level. For PIF1-regulated and red light-regulated DEGs, raw data from the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus were obtained and processed as described.

## Accession Numbers

Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank/EMBL data libraries under the following accession numbers: *LUH* (At2g32700),

*LUG* (At4g32551), *MUM2* (At5g63800), *PIF1* (At2g20180), *GA3ox1* (At1g15550), *GA3ox2* (At1g80340), *GA2ox2* (At1g30040), *ABA1* (At5g67030), *NCED6* (At3g24220), *NCED9* (At1g78390), *CYP707A2* (At2g29090), *RGA* (At2g01570), *GAI* (At1g14920), *PIL1* (At2g46970), *EXP8* (At2g40610), *EXP10* (At1g26770), *SCL3* (At1g50420), and *PP2A* (At1g13320). Microarray data have been deposited in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus database ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo); accession number GSE70406).

## Supplemental Data

**Supplemental Figure 1.** *pif1* mutants and *pif1 luh* double mutants have comparable germination kinetics under the phyB<sub>off</sub> condition.

**Supplemental Figure 2.** Comparable germination frequencies for wild-type seeds and seeds harvested from the *LUG*<sup>+/-</sup> or *mum2* mutants.

**Supplemental Figure 3.** Heat map showing a hierarchical clustering analysis of LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes.

**Supplemental Figure 4.** LUH-mediated enrichment of promoter fragments in the wild type and *pif1* mutants.

**Supplemental Figure 5.** *LUG* regulates *SEP3* targets either positively or negatively.

**Supplemental Figure 6.** Expression patterns of LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes in the embryo and endosperm.

**Supplemental Data Set 1.** LUH- and PIF1-regulated genes.

**Supplemental Data Set 2.** LUH- and PIF1-activated and -repressed genes.

**Supplemental Data Set 3.** Cell wall loosening enzyme genes and hormone-responsive genes.

**Supplemental Data Set 4.** LUH- and PIF1-regulated PIF1 target genes.

**Supplemental Data Set 5.** LUH-regulated PIF1 target genes.

**Supplemental Data Set 6.** List of primers used in this study.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

N.L., J.P., K.K., and G.C. designed experiments. N.L., J.P., and K.K. performed experiments. N.L. and G.C. wrote the article.

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