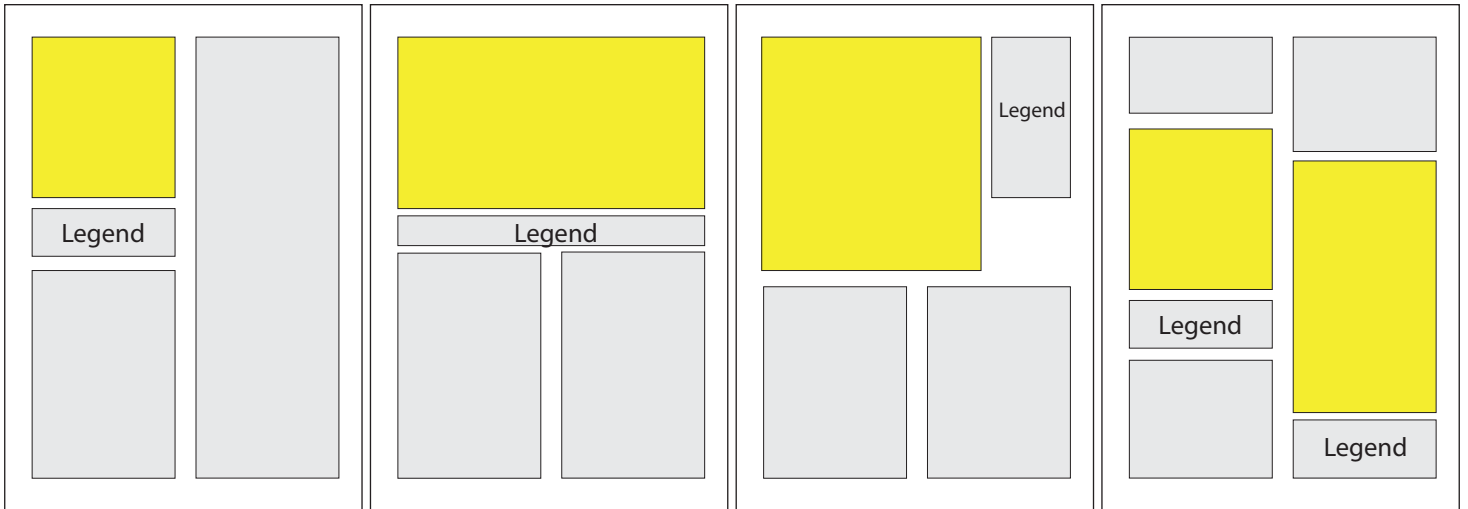# Better figure layout can help reviewers and readers to appreciate your science

PDF text is spread over two columns (grey boxes) into which figures fit (yellow boxes)

1. Consider figure layout in the context of single or double columns (the yellow boxes above).

2. Within the figure (yellow box) maximise information (data) and minimise background.

3. Consider that different data work on different scales. Images of cells and western blots should be large enough to see the relevant features. Information in graphs can often be read when smaller (see page 2).
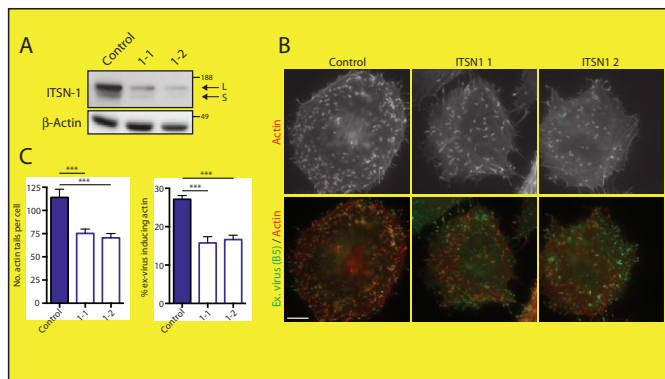
Note that we may suggest changes to figure layout or sizing at production stage.

Below we illustrate points 1 to 3 using data from Fig. 5, Humphries et al., *Journal of Cell Science* (2014), 127, 673–685.
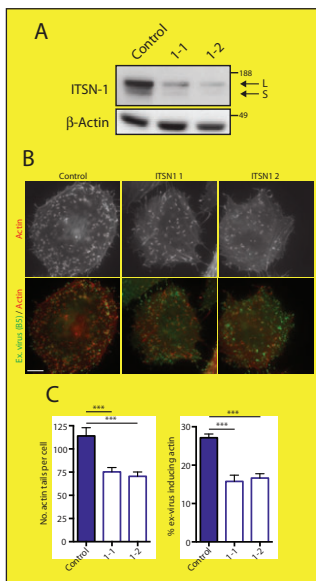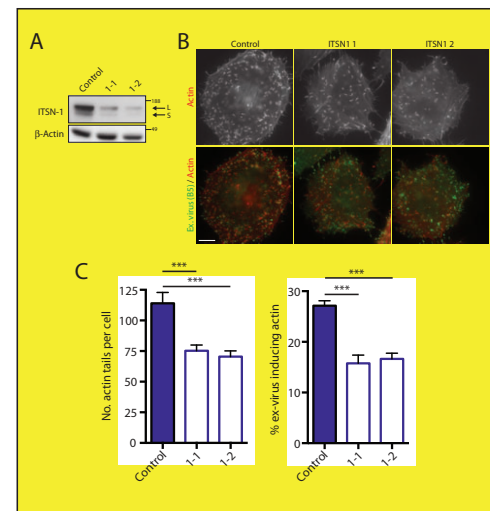
Single column / half-page width

- Data fits nicely in area
- Background minimised
- Western and graph size ok
- Cell images too small

Double column / full-page width

- Data fits nicely in area
- Background minimised
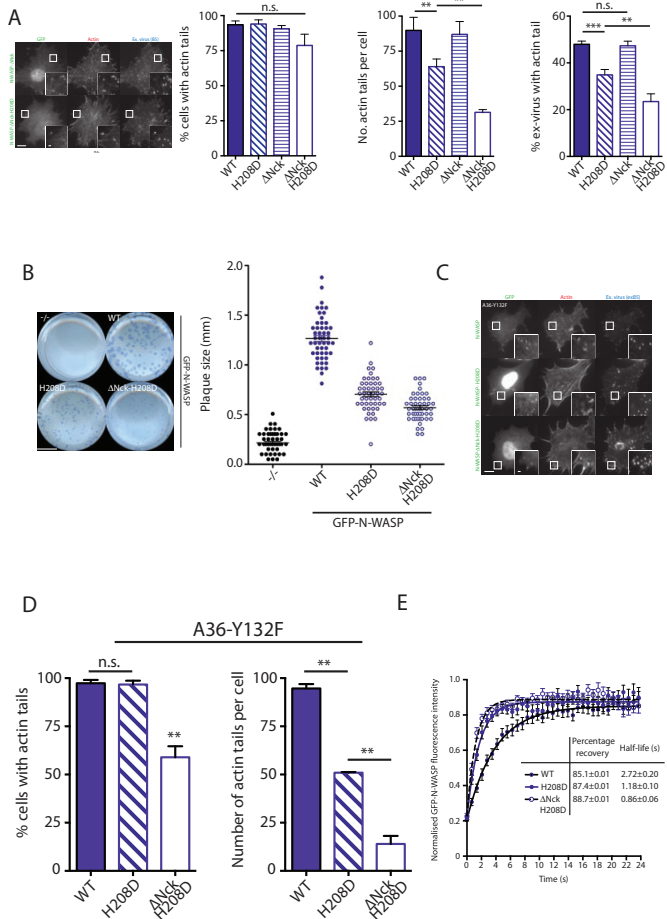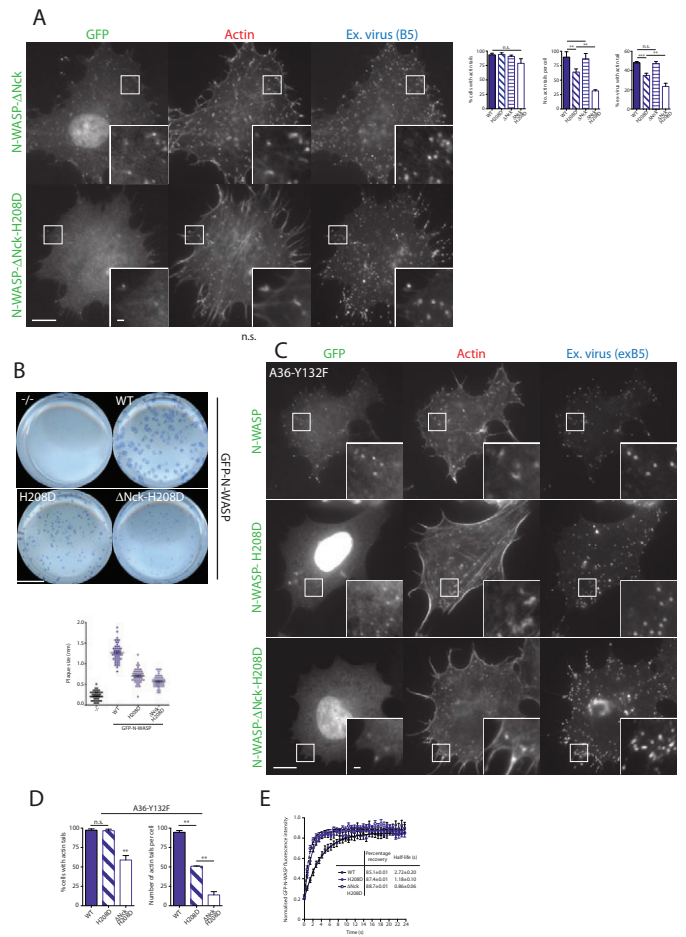- Relevant features in images and graphs are visible

1.5 columns / box format

- Data layout not optimal
- Background not minimised
- Western blot and cell images too small
- Graphs bigger than they need to be
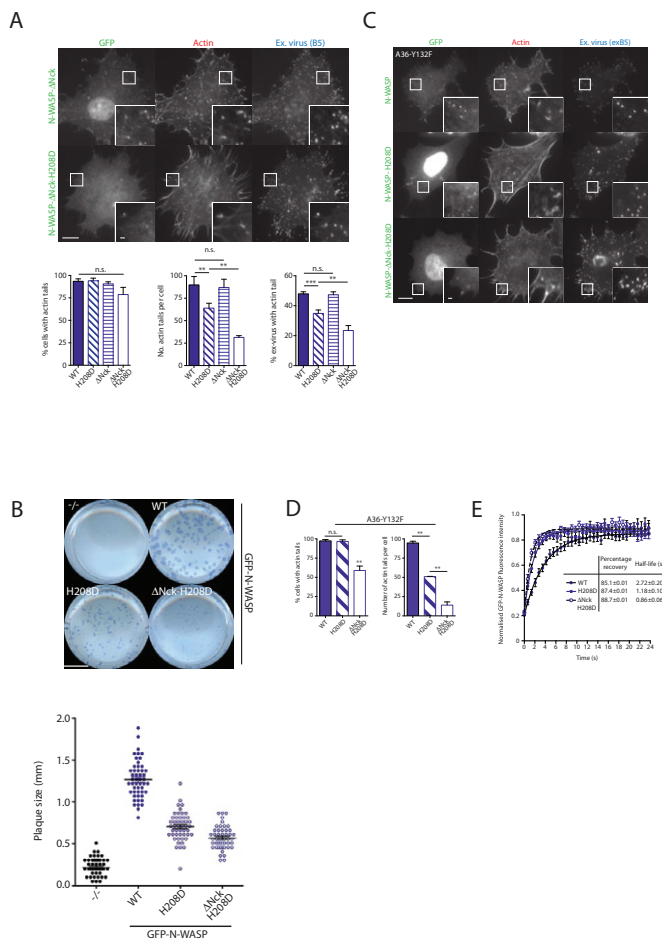
See page two for more layout examples and tips

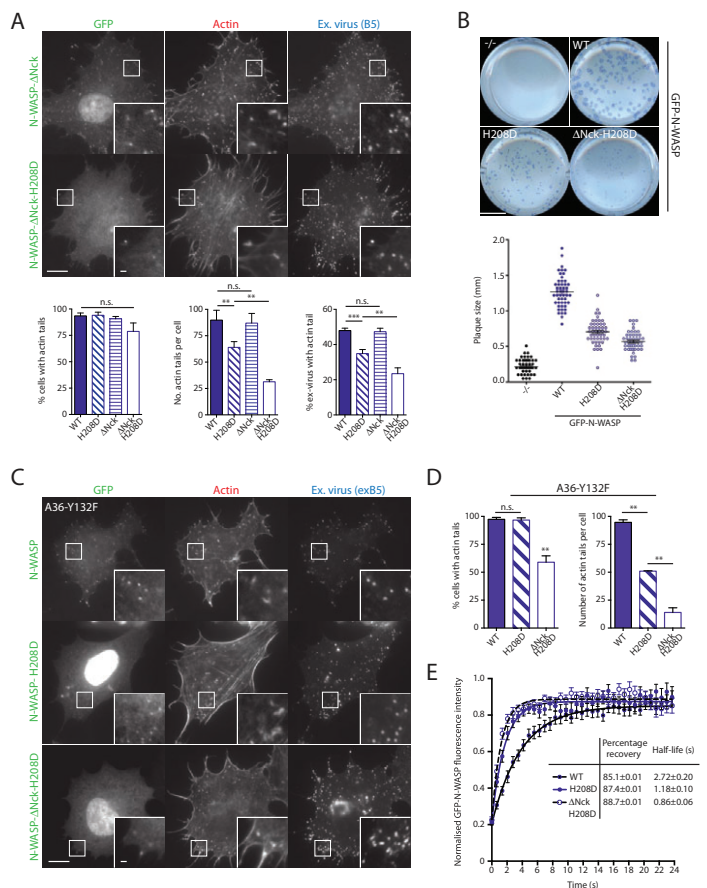Small images, overly big graphs and white gaps between rows.

Images too big, graphs too small and odd white gaps.

Odd ordering , large white gaps and ineffective use of space.

Layout as published maximises information in available space.

Data are from Fig. 2, Humphries et al., *Journal of Cell Science* (2014), 127, 673–685.