

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	The microtubule cytoskeleton	1
1.1.1	Microtubule Dynamic Instability	2
1.1.2	GTP hydrolysis: the stabilizing cap model	4
1.1.3	Curvature of unpolymerized and polymerized tubulins	6
1.1.4	Kinetics of catastrophe	7
1.1.5	Mechanisms of rescue	9
1.1.6	Yeast tubulins	10
1.2	Networks of +TIPs at the microtubule plus-end	12
1.2.1	EB proteins and their hitchhikers	12
1.2.2	XMAP215 family proteins	15
1.2.3	Kinesins	17
1.3	Aim of this work	20
2	A COMPUTER-ASSISTED FRAMEWORK TO QUANTIFY MICROTUBULE DYNAMICS IN VIVO AT HIGH SPATIOTEMPORAL RESOLUTION	23
2.1	Visualization of astral microtubules in vivo	24
2.2	Time-lapse series acquisition and analysis	24
2.3	Temporal and spatial organization of aMTs in budding Yeast	26
2.4	Temperature sensitivity of budding yeast aMTs	28
2.5	Revealing interplay between MAPs in vivo: Kip2 and Kip3	30
2.6	Coupling multidimensional data	33
3	A MECHANISM FOR THE CONTROL OF MICROTUBULE PLUS-END DYNAMICS FROM THE MINUS END	37
3.1	Unlike Kip3, Kip2 does not accumulate on aMT plus-ends in MT length dependent manner	38
3.2	Kip2 is dominantly loaded from the SPB and not from the microtubule shaft	39
3.3	Bik1 prevents the random loading of Kip2 along microtubule shafts	40
3.4	Polo-like kinase Cdc5 mediated phosphorylation of Spc72 dominates the loading of Kip2 on bud-proximal SPBs	43
3.5	SPBs modulate their Kip2 recruitment activity to control microtubule dynamics at plus-ends	44
4	YEAST CLIP-170 TURNS KINESIN KIP2 MOTOR DOMAIN INTO MICROTUBULE POLYMERASE AT PLUS-END	47
4.1	Bik1-dependent accumulation of Kip2 on plus-end is indispensable for aMT polymerization	48

4.2	Kip2 motor domain but not the rest of the kinesin recruits free tubulin dimers	50
4.3	Distinct free tubulin dimer interface within Kip2 motor domain confers its microtubule polymerization activity	52
4.4	Phosphorylation of Kip2 N-terminus dampens aMT polymerization by releasing Kip2 from Bik1 on plus-ends	55
4.5	Phosphorylation triggers the interaction between Kip2 N-termini and C-termini	58
4.6	Phosphorylated Kip2 N-termini may be a prerequisite for the Kip2 recruitment to SPBs	60
5	MULTIFUNCTIONAL C-TERMINAL TAIL CONFERS KIP3 DUAL-MODE REGULATION ON MICROTUBULE	63
5.1	Kip3 binds to both growing and shrinking aMT plus-ends	63
5.2	Identification of a novel tubulin binding domain resides within Kip3 C-terminal fragment	64
5.3	The C-terminal tubulin binding domain is essential for promoting rescue	66
5.4	The tail of Kip3 facilitates its motor domain to promote catastrophe	66
5.5	Phosphorylation of Kip3 tail may regulate its motor processivity	67
5.6	Kip2 interacts with the tail of Kip3 to inhibit its rescue promoting activity	70
6	ASTRAL MICROTUBULE NETWORK ASYMMETRY IN MITOTIC BUD-DING YEAST	73
6.1	The asymmetric organization of aMTs is independent of SPB history	74
6.2	Spatial phosphoregulation of Kip2 contributes to aMT asymmetry organization	76
6.3	Screen of potential kinases affecting aMT asymmetry	80
6.4	Destabilization of distal aMTs driven by Hsl1 and SPOC components	84
6.5	Spatial phosphoregulation of other MAPs: Kip3 and Stu2	86
7	DISCUSSION	89
7.1	The unexpected function of SPBs in regulating microtubule plus-end dynamics	89
7.2	Kip2 motor domain as a microtubule polymerase	92
7.2.1	One motor, two functions, three tubulin interfaces	93
7.2.2	How does a motor domain polymerize microtubules?	94
7.2.3	Phosphorylation mediated Kip2 inhibition	95
7.2.4	The multifaceted functions of Bik1	95

7.3	A model for regulating the flow of Kip2 at the microtubule minus-end and plus-end	98
7.4	The asymmetric organization of aMTs in metaphase	100
7.4.1	The history of SPBs does not determine aMT asymmetry	100
7.4.2	Potential spatial imbalance of kinase activities	101
7.4.3	SPBs based regulation of aMT asymmetry	103
8	MATERIALS AND METHODS	105
8.1	Strains and Plasmids	105
8.2	Media and Growth conditions	105
8.3	Fluorescence Microscopy	105
8.4	Image and Data Analysis	106
8.5	Western blots	107
8.6	Mn ²⁺ -Phos-tag SDS-PAGE	107
8.7	Co-immunoprecipitations	108
8.8	Statistics	108
	SUPPLEMENT FIGURES	135
	ABBREVIATIONS	147
	TABLE OF METAPHASE ASTRAL MT DYNAMICS IN KIP2 MUTANTS	149
	LIST OF PLASMIDS USED IN THIS STUDY	151
	LIST OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES USED IN CRISPR	153
	LIST OF STRAINS USED IN THIS STUDY	157
	CURRICULUM VITAE	169