A visual atlas of meiotic protein dynamics in living fission yeast

Wilber Escorcia*[1,2], Vishnu P. Tripathi*[1], Ji-Ping Yuan[1], and Susan L. Forsburg[1, #]

1. University of Southern California, Molecular and Computational Biology Program
2. University of Southern California, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology

Corresponding author: forsburg@usc.edu
* Equal contribution

Running Title: A Meiosis Atlas

Key Words: Meiosis, Histone, Cohesin, Microtubule, Spindle Assembly Checkpoints, PCNA

ORCID:

Susan L. Forsburg: 0000-0002-4895-8598

Vishnu P. Tripathi: 0000-0002-6137-8547

Wilber Escorcia: 0000-0002-2141-0581

Summary

Meiosis is an important process for sexually reproducing organisms. Unique dynamics of recombination and chromosome segregation are required for this differentiation process. Fission yeast is an excellent model to study meiotic progression and chromosome dynamics. In this report, using fluorescently tagged proteins and live-cell microscopy we present meiotic signposts that define dynamic behavior of proteins during meiotic DNA synthesis, nuclear fusion, chromosome alignment, genetic recombination, metaphase, and meiosis.

Abstract

Meiosis is a carefully choreographed dynamic process that re-purposes proteins from somatic/vegetative cell division, as well as meiosis-specific factors, to carry out the differentiation and recombination pathway common to sexually reproducing eukaryotes. Studies of individual proteins from a variety of different experimental protocols can make it difficult to compare details between them. Using a consistent protocol in otherwise wild type fission yeast cells, this report provides an atlas of dynamic protein behavior of representative proteins at different stages during normal zygotic meiosis in fission yeast. This establishes common landmarks to facilitate comparison of different proteins and shows that initiation of S phase likely occurs prior to nuclear fusion/karyogamy.

Introduction

Meiosis is a conserved cell differentiation pathway found in sexually reproducing eukaryotes. It is characterized by one round of DNA synthesis, followed by two nuclear divisions, resulting in haploid gametes (reviewed in (Zickler and Kleckner, 1999); (Cavalier-smith, 2002; Hochwagen, 2008; Ohkura, 2015)). In most organisms, the divisions are preceded by programmed double strand breaks (DSB) followed by homologous recombination (HR) that facilitates separation of the homologous chromosomes during reductional meiosis I division (reviewed in (Gray and Cohen, 2016)). The equational meiosis II division separates sister chromatids and more closely resembles mitosis in somatic or vegetative cells but is unusual in that it does not follow a period of DNA synthesis (reviewed in (Ohkura, 2015)).

A variety of meiosis-specific genes are recruited to facilitate these specialized events. These include additional recombination proteins, components of the synaptonemal complex or linear elements between chromosome homologues, proteins that contribute to kinetochore mono-orientation, and meiosis-only cohesin proteins that link sister chromatids together. These specialists modify the basic architecture of cell division particularly to facilitate the meiosis-specific chromosome recombination and the MI division mechanisms (Hunter, 2015; Lam and Keeney, 2015; Zickler and Kleckner,

2015). The yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* offers an excellent model system to study the process of meiosis. Normally haploid cells can be induced to conjugate with cells of the opposite mating type in conditions of nutrient limitation, forming transient zygotes. The initial landmark event following karyogamy is the formation of a telomere-led chromosome bouquet, which migrates rapidly back and forth in the length of the cell in a dynein-led movement called horse-tailing (HT) (Ding et al., 1998; Yamamoto et al., 1999). Meiotic S (meiS) phase and recombination occur during horse-tailing, which is followed by the MI and MII divisions (reviewed in (Davis and Smith, 2001; Mizuguchi et al., 2015; Yamashita et al., 2017). Genetic tools have been deployed to identify and characterize proteins that function throughout these different phases.

The advent of green fluorescent protein (GFP) and related colorful fluorescent tags has allowed the analysis of protein dynamics in living cells and these have been widely used in studies of fission yeast meiosis. However, variation in protocols and conditions make it challenging to compare the dynamics of proteins in the various stages of meiosis in different publications. In particular, many studies employ a temperature sensitive pat1 mutant to drive a synchronous meiosis, even from haploids, which disrupts aspects of meiosis (e.g., (Bähler et al., 1991; Iino and Yamamoto, 1985a; Yamamoto and Hiraoka, 2003). In this report, we examine protein dynamics in meiosis using consistent strains, growth conditions and a standardized imaging protocol (Escorcia et al., 2019; Green et al., 2015). This allows us to generate an atlas of meiotic protein behavior that will be useful to a variety of investigators studying this dynamic process.

Results

Rationale We used a uniform growth strategy to induce mating and meiosis between cells of opposite mating types, followed by imaging of cells on agar pads (see Methods (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Escorcia et al., 2019)). Importantly, aside from the tagged genes, the strains are normal haploids that were induced to mate, followed by zygotic meiosis. Reasonable synchrony was achieved solely by using appropriate growth conditions, and we did not employ any mutations such as *pat1-ts* which can

induce meiotic abnormalities (e.g., (Bähler et al., 1991; Yamamoto and Hiraoka, 2003)).

Thus, our strategy recapitulates as much as possible a "normal" fission yeast meiosis.

Nuclear dynamics establish a reference

Hht1 and Hhf1 are the H3-H4 histone pairs used for nucleosome packaging of DNA in

fission yeast (Choe et al., 1985; Takayama and Takahashi, 2007). Because of its role in

nuclear organization, Hht1 is used with fluorescent tags to mark the nuclear mass

during mitotic and meiotic processes (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Sabatinos et al.,

2015; Tomita et al., 2013). We employed cells carrying either Hht1-mRFP or Hht1-GFP

and followed meiotic progression using live-cell imaging. We began our observations

during the phase following initial mating but prior to karyogamy, which we term the pre-

fusion stage (PF). At this stage, Hht1 signal is pan-nuclear and shows no drastic

movements or changes in shape (FS-HT: -10 min) (**Fig. 1A, Fig. S1A, B**). Nuclear

fusion (FS) occurs and is characterized by nuclear bridging, where genetic material is

combined (FS-HT: 0 min) (**Fig. 1A, Fig. S1A, B**). After completion of karyogamy, mixing

takes place and the nuclear size doubles in the zygote relative to haploid, pre-fusion

cells (FS-HT: -10 to 10 min) (**Fig. 1A, Fig. S1A, B**). This period of nuclear fusion lasts

for about 14 minutes (mean timing= 14.1' ± 2.6') before the nuclear mass undergoes

repeated oscillations for approximately 215 minutes (215.5' ± 15.8') in the horse-tailing

stage (HT) (**Fig. 1B**). The horse-tailing phase marks the period in which meiotic

chromosome recombination takes place (Cooper et al., 1998; Hiraoka et al., 2000).

When horse-tailing concludes, vigorous oscillation ceases, and the nuclear size

starts to contract, with moderate to low nuclear movement (HT-MTI: -50 to -30 min)

(**Fig. 1 A**). This transition phase of nuclear reconfiguration lasts for approximately 20

minutes (23.2' ± 1.7') followed by 8 minutes (8.4' ± 1.8') of metaphase I (MTI) where

maximal nuclear compaction occurs and Hht1-mRFP signal intensifies (HT-MTI: -20' to

0') (**Fig. 1 A-C, Fig. S1A, C, D**). The nucleus in meiosis I (MI) splits into two nuclear

masses of roughly equal size (MTI-MI: 10') (**Fig. 1 A, Fig. S1A**) that contain segregated

sets of homologous chromosomes (Hauf et al., 2007; Hirose et al., 2011; Yokobayashi

and Watanabe, 2005). The transition of metaphase I to meiosis I lasts for approximately

10 minutes (10.3' ± 0.5') whereas the average duration of meiosis I to meiosis II is

approximately 50 minutes (53.2' ± 2.2') (**Fig. 1B**). During metaphase II (MTII), homologs

continue to move toward opposite ends of the zygote. Final separation of the two

nuclear masses into four daughter nuclei marks the completion of meiosis II (MII) (MTI-

MI: 60-70) (**Fig. 1 A, Fig. S1A**). At this stage, sister chromatid sets completely

segregate and are readied for packaging into spores in the gamete-maturation phase

that follows meiosis II (Hauf et al., 2007; Hirose et al., 2011; Yokobayashi and

Watanabe, 2005).

S phase markers PCNA and Tos4

PCNA (SpPcn1) plays major roles in DNA replication, repair and translesion

synthesis (revived in (Boehm et al., 2016)). A processivity factor, it interacts with both

DNA Polymerase δ and ε (Arroyo et al., 1996; reviewed in (Choe and Moldovan, 2017)).

In *S pombe,* GFP tagged Pcn1 has been used in DNA replication studies ((Meister et

al., 2007; Ruan et al., 2015a). To monitor meiotic S phase dynamics, we used EGFP-

Pcn1 (Meister et al., 2007). Consistent with data from vegetative cells (Meister et al.,

2007), we observed discrete EGFP-Pcn1 foci. These initially appeared throughout the

nucleus at the pre-fusion stage (FS-HT: -10') which lasted for about 10 minutes (11.1 ±

1.1') (**Fig. 2A, B**). At karyogamy, when the two parent nuclei fused, the EGFP-Pcn1 foci

remained pan nuclear and signal intensity went up and reached to the maximum (FS-

HT: 0') (**Fig. 2C**). As cells moved from karyogamy to the horse-tailing stage, pan

nuclear, punctate foci diffused and large replication foci formed at one end of the

nucleus which later converted into fewer and smaller foci, again localized in one edge of

the nucleus (FS-HT: 0'-30') (**Fig. 2A**). Before Pcn1-GFP signal became diffusely

distributed, this replication patterns of PCNA, during karyogamy and early horse-tailing

stage last for about 49 minutes (48.9' ± 8.1') (**Fig. 2B**). Notably, horse-tailing continues

for another 160-180 minutes but Pcn1 signal remains diffused, suggesting the

conclusion of S phase.

Fission yeast Tos4 is a nonessential transcription factor that accumulates during

early S-phase in the nucleus (Bastos de Oliveira FM et al., 2012; Kiang et al., 2009; Kim

et al., 2020; Shen and Forsburg, 2019) Tos4 contains a fork-head associated (FHA)

domain and is regulated by the G1/S transcription factors SBF (Swi4-Swi6 cell cycle box

binding factor) (Horak et al., 2002; Huang and Elledge, 2000). We used fluorescently

tagged Tos4-GFP to examine its behavior in meiosis (Kim et al., 2020; Shen and

Forsburg, 2019). The expression of bright pan-nuclear Tos4-GFP signal was first

observed during the pre-fusion stage, lasting for about 11 minutes (11.3' ± 1.9') (FS-HT:

-10 min) (**Fig. 2D, E**). The signal intensity of Tos4-GFP foci increases as cells undergo

karyogamy (FS-HT: 0 min) (**Fig. 2F**). The pan-nuclear Tos4-GFP signal gradually

disappears as cells spend about 25-30 minutes in horse-tailing (FS-HT: 0 to 30 min)

(**Fig. 2D, F**). The duration of pan-nuclear Tos4 signal from fusion to early horse-tailing is

observed for about 40 minutes (41.3' ± 3.5') (**Fig. 2E**). Notably, the dynamics and timing

of Tos4-GFP accumulation in the nucleus is similar to the EGFP-Pcn1, although EGFP-

Pcn1 replication foci last approximately 8 min longer. This suggests that Tos4-GFP is

an early meiotic S phase marker with similar dynamics to vegetative S phase (Kim et

al., 2020).

Cohesin and pairing proteins

Rec8 is the alpha-kleisin subunit of the meiotic cohesin complex in fission yeast (Ding et

al., 2006; Ding et al., 2016; Watanabe and Nurse, 1999; Watanabe et al., 2001).

Following meiotic DNA synthesis, it keeps sister chromatids cohered at the centromere

until just before meiosis II, when it is degraded to allow sister chromatid separation

(Ishiguro et al., 2010; Kitajima et al., 2004; Kitajima et al., 2006; Riedel et al., 2006). We

examined the meiotic nuclear dynamics of cells in which Rec8 is tagged with green

fluorescent protein (Rec8-GFP). Rec8-GFP signal is observed in cells prior to

karyogamy (FS-HT: -10 to 0) (**Fig. S2A-C**). This signal is dispersed throughout the

nucleus and during nuclear fusion, horse-tailing, and metaphase I (FS-HT: -10 to 60

min; HT-MTI: -60 to 0 min) (**Fig. S2A-C, Fig. 3A, B**). Approximately, within the first 15

minutes (15.4' ± 2.2') of meiosis I, Rec8-GFP signal intensity decreases drastically

(MTI-MI: 0 to 20) until it becomes a focus in each nucleus during meiosis I and

metaphase II (MI-MTII: 10'-50') (**Fig. 3A-E**). Just before cells enter meiosis II, the Rec8-

GFP focus in each nucleus disappears (MTII-MII: 50'-70') (**Fig. 3A**). Complete loss of

Rec8-GFP signal precedes the final equational division of meiosis II and it takes about

35 minutes (35.7' ± 2.9') after meiosis I to complete (MTI-MI: 10-50 min) (**Fig. 3D**).

Rec27 and Rec10 are part of the linear element (LinE) proteins that bind along
the axes of homologous chromosomes to regulate chromosome pairing, programmed
double strand breaks (DSB), and genetic recombination (Davis et al., 2008; Ellermeier
and Smith, 2005; Phadnis et al., 2015; Sakuno and Watanabe, 2015). We followed cells
in which Rec27 is fluorescently tagged (Rec27-GFP). We observe Rec27-GFP pan-
nuclear signal during the period preceding nuclear fusion (**Fig. S4**). The signal
continues until late horse-tailing stage (HT-MTI: -40') (**Fig. S4**). However, the pan-
nuclear dispersed signal migrates into discrete puncta that gradually decrease in
intensity and number before metaphase I (HT-MTI: -50 to -30 min) (**Fig. S3A, B, E**). The
disappearance of LinE foci happens about 19 minutes (19.1' ± 3.2') prior to the onset of
metaphase I (**Fig. S3 D**). We did not observe Rec27-GFP signal in metaphase I or
following meiosis I and II (MTI-MI: -20 to 70 min) (**Fig. S3A,B**).

Sgo1 (*shugoshin)* along with phosphatase protein 2A (PP2A) helps to protect
Rec8 from proteolytic degradation at the centromere prior to meiosis I (Ishiguro et al.,
2010; Kitajima et al., 2004; Riedel et al., 2006). We observed meiosis in cells carrying
Sgo1 fluorescently tagged with GFP (Sgo1-GFP). Sgo1-GFP signal emerges when
nuclear oscillation slows down in horse-tailing and remains visible for 50-55 minutes
before disappearing during the metaphase I to meiosis I transition (HT-MTI: -60 to 0
min) (**Fig. S5A, B, E**). The discrete Sgo1-GFP foci disappears in about 11 minutes
(11.4' ± 1.1') of metaphase I to meiosis I transition (**Fig. S5D**). During meiotic divisions,
only background signal is observed (MTI-MI: 0 to 70 min) (**Fig. S5A, E**).

Moa1 (monopolin) is required to establish monopolar attachment of sister
chromatids during meiosis I. It associates with Rec8 at the centromere and helps to
stabilize Sgo1, thereby ensuring protection of centromeric cohesion, which is crucial for
separation of homologous chromosomes (Galander et al., 2019; Hirose et al., 2011;
Sakuno et al., 2009; Yokobayashi and Watanabe, 2005). Similar to Sgo1-GFP, we
found that Moa1-GFP foci are observed for about 48 minutes (48.6 ± 3') previous to and
during metaphase I (MTI-MI: -60 to 0 min) (**Fig. 4A-E**). These foci are first dispersed
around the nucleus and later cluster together at discrete spots in opposite directions as
the nuclear mass condenses in preparation for homolog separation in meiosis I (HT-

MTI: -10 to 0 min) (**Fig. 4A-C**). During early MI, we observe Moa1 at the poles of the

spindle in addition to spots in the center, likely corresponding to the centromere. Within

about first 14 minutes (14' ± 2') of metaphase I to meiosis I transition, we observe a

complete loss of Moa1 foci (**Fig. 4D**). We did not see any signal in later stages of

metaphase II and meiosis II (**Fig. 4A, B**).

Recombination and Repair

Rad11 (Ssb1) is the fission yeast orthologue of replication protein A (RPA), which

binds to single stranded DNA (ssDNA) resulting from replisome progression in DNA

synthesis and processing of DSB during DNA repair and homologous recombination

(Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Mastro and Forsburg, 2014; Parker et al., 1997;

Sabatinos et al., 2012). We examined cells with fluorescently marked RPA (Rad11-

CFP) to observe signal dynamics previous to and during the meiotic nuclear divisions.

Rad11-CFP signal is pan-nuclear while meiotic DNA synthesis (data not shown) and

recombination take place (HT-MTI: -60' to -30') (**Fig. 5A, C**). During horse tailing, we

observe foci that increase in intensity as the nucleus becomes condensed before and

during metaphase I (MTI-MI: -60 to 0 min) (**Fig. S6D**). The end of discrete Rad11 foci

signal occurs about 21 minutes (21' ± 2.3') prior to the onset of metaphase I (**Fig. S6B)**.

After meiosis I, for next 53 minutes (53.4' ± 1.8'), Rad11-CFP dissipates along the

newly formed nuclei until signal is near background levels by meiosis II (MTI-MI: 0 to 70

min) (**Fig. 5A, Fig. S6D).**

Rad52 acts with Rad11 and Rad51 to regulate recombination, which facilitates

reductional division of the homologous chromosomes in meiosis I (Murayama et al.,

2013; Muris et al., 1997; Octobre et al., 2008; van den Bosch et al., 2001). There are

discrete punctate foci of Rad52-YFP during the late stage of horse-tailing (MTI-MI: -50

to -20 min) which decrease in intensity and diffuse as the cells enter metaphase I (MTI-

MI: 0 to 70 min) (**Figs. 5B, C, Fig. S6A, E**). This stage lasts for about 15 minutes (15' ±

3') prior to metaphase I (**Fig. S6C**). In strains also expressing Rad11-CFP, we observed

a signal colocalization with Rad52-YFP prior to and during metaphase I (MTI-MI: -50 to

0 min) (**Fig. 5C, Fig. S6A**). Both Rad52 and RPA puncta are resolved by the time cells

proceed through meiosis I division. We observed a diffuse nuclear Rad52 signal for

about 55 minutes (55' ± 1') after meiosis I until finally it disappears **(Fig. S6D, E)**.

Spindle and spindle checkpoint dynamics

Atb2, a nonessential component of α-tubulin, is a constituent of cytoplasmic

microtubule organization and is actively involved in establishment and maintenance of

cell polarity and cell shape (Adachi et al., 1986; Radcliffe et al., 1998). Previously,

several studies have shown microtubule dynamics covering specific meiotic events e.g.,

karyogamy to prophase, or prophase to meiosis II (Ding et al., 1998; Fennell et al.,

2015; Okamoto et al., 2012; Yamamoto et al., 2008). Here we captured microtubule

dynamics throughout an unperturbed zygotic meiosis, beginning prior to karyogamy. We

employed heterothallic strains containing mCherry tagged atb2 (Atb2-mCherry)

(Yamagishi et al., 2008) and GFP tagged hht1 and imaged meiotic progression from

pre-fusion to meiosis II. We used the nuclear dynamics of Hht1 as the landmarks for

pre-fusion, karyogamy, horse-tailing, metaphase I, meiosis I and II events. In the pre-

fusion stage, we observed a bundle of microtubules extending all across the cell which

stayed for 15 minutes (FS-HT: -220 to -200) **(Fig. S7A)**. During that stage, hht1-GFP

appeared diffused. As cells enter karyogamy, the bundle of microtubules moves and

finally converges to form a X shaped structure, bringing the spindle pole in the center

and two parent nuclei closer. Karyogamy lasted for about 15 minutes (FS-HT: -200' to -

180') (**Fig. S7B**). Zygote formation and nuclear oscillation in the horse-tailing stage

lasted for 150-160 min (FS-HT: -180' to -30'). During horse-tailing, microtubules

oscillate across the cell, consistent with prior reports (Ding et al., 1998; Fennell et al.,

2015) (HT-MTI: -60 to -30) **(Fig. 6A, B, Fig. S7A)**. As cells approach the end of horse-

tailing, we observed a continuous spindle depolymerization represented by reduction in

microtubule length and signal intensity (**Fig. 6A, B, D)**. This spindle depolymerization,

during the late horse-tailing stage, lasts for about 39 minutes (39' ± 4.5') (**Fig. S7B)**. A

discrete Atb2 focus reappears 12 minutes (12' ± 1.4') prior to the metaphase I,

representing prophase I (HT-MTI: -60' to -20') (**Fig. 6A, B, Fig. S7B)**. The prophase I

stage is marked by gradual spindle elongation with increase in the intensity and the

length. Maximum signal intensity and slight increase in constant spindle lengths

represents the end of the metaphase I which lasts 12 minutes (12.3' ± 1.5') (HT-MTI: -
20' to 0') **(Fig. 6A, D, Fig. S7B)**). During anaphase I (meiosis I), the meiotic spindle,
elongates outwards and reaches the cell tip. This elongation occurs as the
chromosomes separate in two daughter nuclei and it lasts for about 10 minutes (10.9' ±
1') (MTI-MI: 0' to 20') **(Fig. 6A, D, Fig. S7B)**. The completion of meiosis I is followed by
loss of signal associated with microtubule depolymerization and spindle breakdown (MI:
20' to 40') **(Fig. 6A, B, Fig. S7B)**. The duration of Meiosis I is about 34 minutes
including approximately 11 minutes (10.9' ± 1') of anaphase 1 with extended spindle
elongation, and 23 minutes (22.9' ± 1.8') of an interval with loss of signal (**Fig. S7B**).
During prophase II, Atb2-mCherry signal reappears as a single focus followed by an
extension of microtubules leading to metaphase II and anaphase II. Microtubule
dynamics in meiosis II were similar to meiosis I (**Fig. 6A, D**). Finally, at the end of
meiosis II the nuclear microtubule signals disappear again. The duration of metaphase
II lasted approximately 12 minutes (12.3' ± 1.5') while the anaphase II lasted for about
14 minutes (14.6' ± 1.8') (**Fig. S7B**). The spindle length and signal intensity in meiosis I
and II are proportional to the respective nuclear mass (hht1-GFP) (**Fig. 6D**). Completion
of meiosis II is represented by completely separated four daughter nuclei and
depolymerization of the microtubule (MI-MII: 40' to 70') (**Fig. 6A, B**).

Aurora-B like kinase (*Sp*Ark1) is a serine/ threonine kinase and a component of
chromosome passenger complex which ensures phosphorylation of substrates involved
during chromosome condensation activation of spindle assembly checkpoints and
correction of erroneous kinetochore-microtubule attachments (Carmena et al., 2012;
Kawashima et al., 2007; Sakuno et al., 2011). To examine its dynamics in zygotic
meiosis, we used heterothallic strains containing Ark1 tagged with GFP (Ark1-GFP) and
tubulin tagged with mCherry. Ark1-GFP initially is visible during the transition from
horse-tailing to metaphase I, with bright punctate foci which lasts for about 9 minutes
(8.9' ± 1.1') localized at spindle poles (HT-MTI: -20 min) (**Fig. 7A, B, Fig. S8A**). As cells
move to metaphase I, there are discrete Ark1-GFP foci across the length of the spindle
(HT-MTI: -10' to 0') (Kawashima et al., 2007) (**Fig. 7A, B**). This scattered signal lasts for
about 13 minutes (13.7' ± 1.6') (**Fig. S8A**). At anaphase I Ark1-GFP signal re-localizes
to the center of the extended spindles in the apparent midbody (**Fig. 7A-C, Fig. S8A**).

This midzone Ark1 signal disappears after the completion of equational division after

about 14 minutes (14.3' ± 2') (MTI-MI: 0 to 10 min) (**Fig. 7A, B, Fig. S8A**). The signal

intensity of Ark1-GFP increases to a maximum at anaphase1 **(Fig. S8B)**. Ark1 briefly

disappears for about 13 minutes (13.4' ± 1.7') before showing similar dynamics in

meiosis II: reappearance of foci during prophase II for 8 minutes (8.3' ± 1.3'),

redistributions to the centromeres during metaphase II for 17 minutes (17.7'± 1.5') and

back to midbody on the spindles during anaphase II for 9 minutes (8.9' ± 1.1') following

the similar pattern as observed in meiosis I (MI-MII: 30 to 60 min) (**Fig. 7A, B, Fig.**

S8A). Ark1-GFP signal disappears after the completion of sister chromatid segregation

(**Fig. 7A, B, Fig. S8B)**.

Bub1 is a centromere-associated conserved serine/threonine kinase, required for

the protection of meiotic centromeric cohesion (Bernard et al., 2001; Marston and

Wassmann, 2017). Bub1 regulates Sgo1's localization to the pericentromeric region

(Kitajima et al., 2004). Previously, Bub1 dynamics were examined in *pat1* synchronized

meiosis but how it behaves in an unperturbed heterothallic meiosis was not tested

(Bernard et al., 2001; Miyazaki et al., 2017). Bub1-GFP initially appears as a single

bright focus in the late horse-tailing stage (HT-MTI: -20') which likely localizes at the

centromere. It remains visible for about 18 minutes (18.3' ± 2.3') in late horse-tailing,

prior to metaphase I, and then the single focus converts in multiple foci distributed

across the chromatin at metaphase I (**Fig. 7D, E, Fig. S8C)**. In metaphase I, Bub1-GFP

signal intensity increases drastically and foci remain distributed across the spindle for

about 11 minutes (11.4' ± 1.2') (HT-MTI: -10' to 0') (**Fig. 7D, E, Fig. S8C, D)**. As cells

move to meiosis I, the signal diffuses from the chromatin to coalesce at a single focus

on both daughter nuclei at spindle pole bodies representing the enrichment of Bub1 at

the kinetochores (MTI-MI: 0 to 10 min) (**Fig. 7D, E)** (Miyazaki et al., 2017). This stage

lasts for 10 minutes (10.3' ± 0.5') (**Fig. S8C)**. The signal disappears after the completion

of anaphase I, reappearing after 20 minutes (20.9' ± 1.7') in late meiosis I/prophase II

when again it appears in puncta (likely centromeres) for about 10 minutes (10.3' ± 0.6')

(**Fig. 7D, E, Fig. S8C)**. As cells enter in metaphase II, the signal diffuses and distributes

across the spindle in the same fashion as in metaphase I (MI-MII: 40 to 60 min) (**Fig.**

7D-F). In this state, Bub1-GFP signals remain visible for 18 minutes (18.9' ± 1.4') before

disappearing during anaphase II (**Fig. S8C**). We did not see any Bub1-GFP signal

during the meiosis II.

Discussion

Typically, investigators describe the behavior of one or a few novel proteins

during meiosis, but protocols vary from lab to lab. In many cases, investigators make

use of the *pat1-114* temperature sensitive mutant (Beach et al., 1985; Iino and

Yamamoto, 1985a; Iino and Yamamoto, 1985b; Nurse, 1985) which can induce a

synchronous meiosis from haploid or diploid cells in response to temperature shift.

However, *pat1* driven meiosis has notable differences from a normal zygotic meiosis,

and these are are exacerbated in haploid meiosis compared to diploids (e.g., (Bähler et

al., 1991; Pankratz and Forsburg, 2005; Yamamoto and Hiraoka, 2003). Additionally,

many studies employ "snapshots" of different timepoints, rather than continuous

observations with live cell imaging that reveal dynamic and brief events. We have

established a standardized protocol for imaging meiosis over time in normal homothallic

or heterothallic strains, which we employed previously (Escorcia et al., 2019). We

chose representative proteins involved in different stages of meiosis, and compared

their signal intensity, localization, and dynamics against a standard panel of meiotic

nuclear events including karyogamy, horsetail formation, and MI and MII divisions. This

allows direct comparison of localization and timing for representatives of different stages

of meiosis.

Our observations of H3 histone (Hht1-mRFP/GFP) dynamics generally agree

with those of other live-cell studies (Ding et al., 2006; Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017;

Fennell et al., 2015; Klutstein et al., 2015; Tomita et al., 2013; Yamamoto et al., 2019;

Yang et al., 2015). The timing from fusion to meiosis II takes approximately 4 ½ hours,

which is in line with previous reports (Ding et al., 2006; Moiseeva et al., 2017; Tomita et

al., 2013). Fission yeast spends a substantial amount of this time in prophase activities

that take place during horse-tailing. The histone dynamics form a timer that we used to

compare different strains.

We observed that predictable changes in nuclear mass correlate with changes

that define functional shifts in different markers of meiotic progression. Importantly,

changes of Hht1 dynamics are an important monitor for perturbations, such as

disruptions in DNA replication and repair (e.g., (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Mastro

and Forsburg, 2014; Mastro et al., 2020)).

We also see a correlation between signal intensity changes and changes in

nuclear size. Spikes of fluorescence intensity are observed during fusion and in each of

the two metaphase steps preceding the meiotic divisions. This link is consistent with

reports showing elevated histone content during DNA synthesis and increased nuclear

condensation in metaphase (Chikashige et al., 2004; Choe et al., 1985; Ding et al.,

2004; Takayama and Takahashi, 2007; Yokobayashi et al., 2003).

Unexpectedly, our study suggests that S phase actually initiates prior to nuclear

fusion in normal zygotes. This is likely coordinated by trans-acting transcription factors

that form after cell fusion (e.g.,(Vještica et al., 2018)). Previously, in a *pat1-* induced

meiosis, it was suggested that DNA replication occurs at the beginning of the horsetail

stage (Chikashige et al., 2004). However, we observe that punctate, pan-nuclear EGFP-

Pcn1- foci that are typical of S phase (e.g., (Meister et al., 2007)) appear at the stage

we call pre-fusion (PF), prior to karyogamy. We find that EGFP-Pcn1 at this pre-fusion

stage forms punctate pan-nuclear foci which we infer represents early S phase (Meister

et al., 2007). At karyogamy, EGFP-Pcn1 signal intensity reaches a maximum, and is

distributed in punctate foci across the nucleus including the nucleolar region, which we

define as early to mid S-phase. Diffusion of EGFP signal and localization of large bright

foci and then smaller and fewer foci at the edge of the nucleus during horsetail stages

we propose represents late S phase. Our results agree with a recent study by (Ruan et

al., 2015a) who observed a similar Pcn1 dynamics in *h90 (*homothallic*) S. pombe* cells.

We see consistent results with another S phase marker. Tos4-GFP is a

transcription factor that accumulates in the nucleus during the early S phase of the

mitotic cell cycle (Bastos de Oliveira FM et al., 2012; Kiang et al., 2009; Kim et al.,

2020; Shen and Forsburg, 2019). We see Tos4-GFP appear in the nucleus prior to

karyogamy; this is particularly striking because the strain we used is heterozygous for

Tos4-GFP, so we can see it appear in just one of the two nuclei. Tos4-GFP is

distributed across the nucleus following karyogamy, and disappears relatively early in

horse-tailing, somewhat before the loss of the last PCNA foci. We conclude that Tos4

nuclear localization is an early meiotic S phase marker with similar dynamics to its

behavior during mitosis (Kim et al., 2020). Together, these data indicate that S phase

initiates prior to nuclear fusion.

The meiotic cohesin (Rec8-GFP) is one of the most dynamic proteins in meiosis.

Rec8 is initially detected in cells that have not yet undergone karyogamy. This is

consistent with ongoing S phase and recruitment of cohesin to newly replicating sister

chromatids (Doll et al., 2008; Watanabe and Nurse, 1999; Watanabe et al., 2001). After

nuclear fusion, Rec8-GFP fluorescence intensifies and colocalizes with Hht1-mRFP

throughout the nucleus. From the beginning of horse-tailing until the end of metaphase

I, cohesin content, timing, and movement are closely linked to those of H3 histone. This

signal pattern is consistent with the nuclear organization function of Rec8 during

recombination and metaphase I condensation (Ding et al., 2004; Ding et al., 2006; Ding

et al., 2016). Consistent with prior observations, the signal changes as cells enter

meiosis I, forming distinct foci that are resolved just before sister chromatid segregation

in meiosis II (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Le et al., 2013; Mastro et al., 2020;

Watanabe and Nurse, 1999). We have shown previously that disruption of DNA

replication dynamics changes the timing of Rec8 in these events (Escorcia and

Forsburg, 2017; Le et al., 2013; Mastro and Forsburg, 2014; Mastro et al., 2020).

Similar to our observation with Rec8-GFP, the linear element protein Rec27-GFP

is first observed in pre-fusion nuclei. We see a bright pan-nuclear signal that continues

into horse-tailing, eventually forming a few discrete foci. Given our data with Pcn1 and

Tos4 that shows signal in pre-fusion nuclei, we infer that Rec27 protein accumulates in

pre-meiotic S phase. This is consistent with expression data suggesting Rec27 is

expressed before premeiotic S phase (Mata et al., 2002). Studies using nuclear spreads

have shown that Rec27 eventually forms distinct structures associated with linear

elements (Davis et al., 2008). We observe that Rec27 foci representing LinE elimination

begin to disappear as cells transition into metaphase I. This observation reflects the end

of Rec27 function in chromosome alignment and recombination (Bähler et al., 1993;

Davis et al., 2008; Ellermeier and Smith, 2005; Phadnis et al., 2015; Sakuno and

Watanabe, 2015). Since disruption of Rec27 dynamics is associated with chromosome

mis-segregation (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017), the time window before nuclear

condensation suggests a promising phase in which to study the end of cross-over

processing and chiasma resolution (Ding et al., 2004; Sharif et al., 2002).

Consistent with its role as protector of centromeric Rec8 degradation prior to

meiosis I (Ishiguro et al., 2010; Kitajima et al., 2004; Kitajima et al., 2006), Sgo1-GFP

foci emerge approximately 1 hour before homologs segregate. Our data agree with

other studies showing Rec8-GFP is removed from chromosome arms but not the

centromere, where Sgo1 localization prevents cleavage (Ishiguro et al., 2010; Mastro et

al., 2020).

Moa1 is reported to localize in the central core of the centromere, where it

interacts with Rec8, ensuring that sister chromatids face the same orientation prior to

homolog separation (Kim et al., 2015; Miyazaki et al., 2017; Yokobayashi and

Watanabe, 2005). We observe Moa1-GFP foci emerging in the HT-MT1 transition and

remaining until right before meiosis I. The role of Moa1 in mono-orientation is evident

from the separation of foci clusters that occurs as cells approach metaphase I. Before

the first nuclear division, six foci are seen arranged in clusters of three following a

trajectory toward opposite cell poles. This signal pattern is similar to that of Sgo1-GFP,

thereby lending additional support to their functional association (Kitajima et al., 2004;

Kitajima et al., 2006).

Proteins involved in replication and repair span the timing from pre-fusion to the

initiation of MI. As is expected for a protein associated with DNA replication and

recombination, Rad11-CFP shows signal patterns from pre-fusion to metaphase I that

resemble those of Rec8 and Rec27. The signal is pan-nuclear during the time window

when markers associated with DNA synthesis like Tos4-GFP and Pcn1-GFP are active.

As cells enter horse-tailing, Rad11-CFP fluorescence follows the outline and movement

of the nuclear mass (Hht1-mRFP). During the HT-MTI transition, Rad11-CFP foci

appear but dissipate as the nucleus begins to contract. These foci co-localize with

Rad52-YFP signal, following meiosis I, diffused pan-nuclear signal is observed, but

disappears completely prior to meiosis II.

Rad52 is a recombination mediator that either promotes Rad51 or antagonizes

Dmc1 binding to RPA-coated presynaptic filaments during recombination (Murayama et

al., 2013; Muris et al., 1997; Octobre et al., 2008). Which recombinase follows Rad52

association with RPA largely determines recombination dynamics in meiotic prophase

(Murayama et al., 2013). Our observations show that Rad52-YFP signal is dim and

diffused throughout horse-tailing. Foci emerge and increase in intensity during the HT-

MTI transition, but disappear like those of Rad11-CFP and Rec27-GFP before

metaphase I.

The final group of proteins we studied are involved in microtubule dynamics and

the spindle checkpoint. In *S. pombe* meiosis, microtubules play crucial roles from early

stages including fusion and horse tailing (Katsumata et al., 2016). Our data are

consistent with previous work showing a bundle of microtubules mobilizing in pre-fusion

and karyogamy, forming a X-shaped structure (Ding et al., 1998). In the horse-tail stage,

DNA synthesis concludes, and homologous chromosome pairing, and recombination

take place (Hiraoka and Dernburg, 2009) (Ruan et al., 2015b). We observed similar

Atb2 dynamics of meiotic prophase as reported in (Fennell et al., 2015; Yamamoto et

al., 1999). Our data are consistent with previous findings suggesting three distinct steps

in spindle elongation (Nabeshima et al., 1998; Sakuno et al., 2011; Yamamoto et al.,

2008). In step1, mainly dominated by prophase, microtubules elongate, and Atb2 signal

intensity increases. Step 2 is characterized by constant spindle length with increase in

signal intensity representing metaphase. Step 3 represents anaphase events when

microtubule elongates further leading to the edge of the cell.

Unlike metazoans, *S. pombe* has only one Aurora B like kinase (*Sp*Ark1) which is

an essential protein. A component of the chromosome passenger complex linked to

kinetochore function, Ark1 plays a crucial role in proper spindle formation, chromosome

condensation, establishment of bipolar attachment, activation of spindle assembly

checkpoints and chromosome segregation (Hauf et al., 2007; Kawashima et al., 2007;

Matsuhara and Yamamoto, 2016; Petersen et al., 2001; Sakuno et al., 2011) Previous

studies show Ark1 dynamics in mitotic and early meiotic stages but dynamics and timing

in an unperturbed zygotic meiosis has not been described previously (Petersen et al.,

2001; Sakuno et al., 2011) Our results show that Ark1-GFP initially forms a punctate

focus during prophase, colocalizes with spindle pole body, in agreement with previous

reports (Hauf et al., 2007; Petersen et al., 2001; Sakuno et al., 2011). Metaphase is

mainly characterized by smaller foci scattered across spindles and colocalizing with the

centromeres. Sgo1 shows similar dynamics during prometaphase and metaphase and

Ark1 colocalizes with Sgo1 at centromeres and SPBs (Kawashima et al., 2007;

Petersen et al., 2001). The localization of Aurora kinase on peri-centromeres during

prometaphase has been confirmed using ChIP (Morishita et al., 2001). During

anaphase Ark1-GFP leaves centromeres and relocates to the central part of elongated

spindle, the mid-zone membrane domain (MDM) (Petersen et al., 2001; Sakuno et al.,

2011; Salas-Pino and Daga, 2019). Our Ark1 dynamics of meiosis II aligned with

meiosis I and mitotic cell cycles (Hauf et al., 2007; Petersen et al., 2001; Sakuno et al.,

2011; Salas-Pino and Daga, 2019).

Bub1 kinase is an essential component of the spindle assembly checkpoint

(SAC) and plays an important role in centromeric cohesion protection and proper Sgo1

localization to the pericentromeric regions (Bernard et al., 2001; Kawashima et al.,

2010; Kitajima et al., 2004). Bub1 also plays a crucial role in Ark1 localization to the

centromere regions (Hauf et al., 2007; Kawashima et al., 2007; Kitajima et al., 2004).

We observed similar nuclear dynamics for Bub1 as for Ark1 early in meiosis. Bub1

dynamics differ from Ark1 during anaphase: when Ark1 leaves centromeres and

localizes to the midzone of spindle, Bub1 remains attached to the centromeres. Our

result also showed different Bub1 dynamics during meiosis I and II, as it remains

attached to the centromere in meiosis I, but we could not see any signal during meiosis

II. This supports previous findings of Bub1's role in monopolar attachment (Hauf et al.,

2007; Miyazaki et al., 2017).

Concluding remarks

Fission yeast is an excellent model for meiotic progression. From nuclear fusion

to genome reduction, we present fluorescent signposts that define dynamic behavior of

proteins during meiotic DNA synthesis, genomic fusion, chromosome alignment, genetic

recombination, metaphase, and meiosis, using a consistent protocol. This live-cell

microscopy approach provides information about the change of protein abundance and
localization during meiotic differentiation and establishes a common template to
facilitate comparisons of different proteins. This should prove particularly helpful in
mutant backgrounds to define the extent of perturbations. By capturing the timing of
different meiotic events in the context of nuclear change, we provide a general atlas of
reliable markers that can be used to study dynamics and disruptions of meiotic
processes in *S. pombe*.

Materials and Methods

Yeast strains, culture and cell growth

General fission yeast culture condition, media compositions and strain constructions are
used as described in (Sabatinos and Forsburg, 2010). Different fluorescently tagged *S.*
pombe strains used in this study are listed in the supplementary Table S1. For live cell
imaging, heterothallic cells were initially grown in 5 ml YES media at 32ºC for 12-16
hours. 100- 250 µl starter culture transferred to 5 ml EMM media containing appropriate
supplements and grown at 32ºC until the culture reached a late log stage (OD_{595}=~0.8).
Late log phase cells harvested at 3,000 rpm for 5 minutes. To remove any remaining
nutrient from the culture, pellets were washed twice with Malt Extract (ME) media.
Finally, heterothallic pellets resuspended in 10 ml ME media and incubated at 25°C for
12 to 16 hours at 50-60 rpm. From this starved mating culture, 1 ml culture harvested in
microfuge tubes and used for live cell microscopy.

Fluorescence live-cell microscopy

Live cell imaging of meiotic events was performed as described in (Escorcia and
Forsburg, 2017; Escorcia et al., 2019). Briefly, 1 ml mating culture harvested at 5,000
rpm for 30 seconds. Pellets were resuspended in 250 µl ME media. 10 µl of cell
suspension spread on top of 2% agarose pad made with liquid sporulation media and
sealed with VaLaP (Vaseline/ Lanolin/ Paraffin in a ratio 1:1:1 by weight). Live cell
imaging was performed at 25°C (pre-calibrated chamber) on a Delta Vision Microscope
(Applied Precision, GE Healthcare, Issaquah, WA) equipped with Olympus 60x/1.40

Plan-Apo objective lens, solid-state illuminator, and 12-bit Photo metrics CoolSNAP_HQ2 Charged-coupled device (CCD) camera. Different filter sets and exposure timings were used to excite and detect fluorescent proteins (Table 2). 13 optical *z*-sections of 0.5 μm step size were acquired for each field at 10-minutes intervals over 8 hours. Images were acquired, deconvolved and all z-stacks projected into a single-plane as maximum intensity projection by SoftWoRx Version 5.5.1 (GE, Issaquah, WA) software. Finally, the projected fluorescence images were fused with transmitted light images. Downstream processing and image analysis were done using Fiji (ImageJ) an open source image analysis software (Schindelin et al., 2012). Detailed description of image analysis is described in (Escorcia and Forsburg, 2017; Escorcia et al., 2019).

Statistical Analysis

For different marker metrics across time and timing of individual events, the mean with 95% CI is presented. For comparisons among time points per marker, significance was evaluated using an ordinary One-Way ANOVA (for matched data) followed by Tukey's post hoc test. GraphPad Prism 8.4.2 was used for statistical analysis and graphical representations of the data.

Acknowledgements We thank Julie Cooper, Gerry Smith, and Yoshi Watanabe for sharing strains. The members of the lab for helpful comments. Marc Green and Tara Mastro for guidance and mentorship. Rosalind Elsie Franklin and Percy Lavon Julian for scientific inspiration. Funding from NIGMS R35 GM118109 (SLF) and T32AG052374 (WE).

Competing Interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding NIGMS R35 GM118109 (SLF) and T32AG052374 (WE).

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Figure 1. Nuclear dynamics of Hht1 defines signposts for meiotic events. (A) Live-
cell image of a heterothallic unperturbed zygotic meiotic cell carrying fluorescently
tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) (5608 x 5609). Time lapse images were captured every
10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel showing hht1-mRFP
dynamics during meiotic cycle encompassing pre-fusion (Pre-FS), karyogamy to
meiosis II (MII). Meiotic signposts are defined as FS-HT (premeiotic events; FS-HT: -10'
(Pre-fusion); FS-HT: 0' (Karyogamy); FS-HT: 10' (beginning of nuclear oscillation)); HT-
MTI (Horsetail to metaphase I transition (HT-MTI: -20' to -10')); MTI (metaphase I (HT-
MTI: 0')); MTI-MI (metaphase I to anaphase I transition (MTI-MI: 10')); MI (meiosis I);
MI-MTII (meiosis I to metaphase II (MI-MTII: 10' to 40')) and MTII-MII (metaphase II to
meiosis II (MTII-MII: 50' to 60')). Numbers are representing timing in minutes and the
scale bars are equal to 5 µm. (B) The durations of Hht1-mRFP dynamics in different
meiotic event. (C) Quantitation of Hht1-mRFP fluorescence intensity. For (C)
metaphase I is considered as a t0 minutes. Timing t (-60) to t (-20) are representing
horsetail stage. t0 + 10 to t0 + 50 is meiosis I while t0 + 60 representing meiosis II. More
than 35 cells were analyzed from at least two independent movies. Average (mean)
values of timing and fluorescence intensities are presented in (B) and (C) respectively.
Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test.
Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure 2. Nuclear dynamics of Pcn1 and Tos4 during meiotic S phase. (A) Live-cell
image of heterothallic zygotic meiotic cell carrying EGFP tagged PCNA (EGFP-Pcn1)
and mRFP tagged Hht1 (3050 x 5615). Time lapse images were captured every 10
minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel showing dynamics of EGFP-
Pcn1 (column 1) and EGFP-Pcn1, Hht1-mRFP merged (column 2) during early meiotic
events encompassing Pre-fusion (Pre-FS), Karyogamy (FS) and early horse-tailing (HT)
stage. Column 3 is showing closeups of selected time points from column 2. Numbers
represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (B) Durations of EGFP-Pcn1
foci signal disappearance. (C) Quantitation of EGFP-Pcn1 fluorescence intensity. (D)
Time lapse images of a heterothallic zygotic meiotic cells carrying Tos4-GFP and Hht1-
mRFP (8848 x 5615). Panel showing dynamics of Tos4-GFP (column 1), Tos4-GFP and
hht1-mRFP merged (column 2) during early meiotic events encompassing Pre-fusion

(Pre-FS), Karyogamy (FS) and early horse-tailing (HT) stage. Column 3 is a closeups of selected time points from column 2. Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal to 5 µm. (E) Durations of Tos4-GFP signal disappearance. (F) Quantitation of Tos4-GFP fluorescence intensity. For (C) and (F) karyogamy (t 0'), Pre-FS (t -10'), and horsetail (t 10' onwards). For estimating timing and signal intensity, n=9 (PCNA) and n=15 (Tos4) cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data in (B), (C), (E) and (F) are representing mean values. Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure 3. Rec8 cohesin dynamics. (A-C) Time-lapse images of meiotic cells carrying Rec8-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (7748 x 7840) were captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Rec8-GFP and (B) merged Rec8-GFP Hht1-mRFP show cohesin dynamics during different meiotic events covering late horsetail (HT), metaphase I (MTI), meiosis I (MI), metaphase II (MTII) and meiosis II (MII). (C) Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (D) Durations of Rec8-GFP signal during metaphase I and meiosis I. (C) Quantitation of Rec8-GFP fluorescence intensity. More than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data in (D) and (E) represents mean timing and fluorescence intensities respectively. Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure 4. Nuclear dynamics of a kinetochore regulator Moa1. (A-C) Time-lapse images of meiotic cells carrying Moa1-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (8047 x 8048) were captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Moa1-GFP and (B) merged Moa1-GFP Hht1-mRFP show nuclear dynamics during different meiotic events covering late horsetail (HT) to meiosis II (MII). (C) Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (D) Durations of Moa1-GFP foci during horsetails and metaphase I. (E) Quantitation of Moa1-GFP fluorescence intensity. More than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data in (D) and (E) represents mean timing

and fluorescence intensities respectively. Significance was evaluated using one-way
ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure 5. Dynamics of Rad11 and Rad52 proteins. (A-C) Time-lapse images of
meiotic cells carrying Hht1-mRFP, Rad11-CFP and Rad52-YFP (7327 x 7328) were
captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panels (A)
Rad11-CFP, (B) Rad52-YFP and (C) merged image of Hht1-mRFP, Rad11-CFP and
Rad52-YFP, are showing dynamics of repair foci during different meiotic events
encompassing horsetail (HT) to meiosis II (MII). Due to the space limitation, bright field
and Hht1-mRFP panels are omitted and closeup image of merged panel are presented
in Supplementary Fig S6. Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5
µm. More than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed.

Figure 6. Meiotic spindle (Atb2-mCherry) dynamics. (A-C) Time-lapse images of
heterothallic unperturbed zygotic meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone
(Hht1-GFP) and tubulin (Atb2-mCherry) (8055 x 8203) were captured every 10 minutes
for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Atb2-mCherry and (B) merged
image of Atb2-mCherry Hht1-mRFP show spindle dynamics during different meiotic
events covering different meiotic events from horse-tailing (HT) to meiosis II (MII). (C)
Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in
minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (D) Quantitation of the length of microtubule. More
than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data in (D)
represents mean of the microtubule length. Significance was evaluated using one-way
ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure 7. Nuclear dynamics of Aurora B (Ark1) and Bub1 kinase. (A-E) Live-cell
images of heterothallic unperturbed zygotic meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged
(A-C) Aurora B kinase (Ark1-GFP) & microtubule (Atb2-mCherry) (8053 x 8056) and (D-
F) SAC Bub1 kinase (Bub1-GFP) & microtubule (Atb2-mCherry) (8055 x 8067). Time-
lapse images were captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are
shown. Panel (A) Ark1-GFP and (B) merged image of Ark1-GFP, Atb2-mCherry (D)
Bub1-GFP and (E) merged image of Bub1-GFP, Atb2-mCherry nuclear dynamics during
different meiotic events encompassing different meiotic events from horse-tailing (HT) to

meiosis II (MII). Panel (C) and (E) are closeup images of selected time frames from

panel (B) and (D) respectively. Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars

equal 5 μm. More than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed.

Quantitative data presented in figure S8.

Figure 8. Meiotic signposts. Model presenting a visual atlas of reliable meiotic

proteins that can be used to study the nuclear dynamics and disruptions of different

meiotic processes in *S. pombe.* Meiotic signposts encompass events including pre-

fusion (PF), Karyogamy (FS), horse-tailing (HT), metaphase I (MTI), meiosis I (MI),

metaphase II (MTII) and meiosis II (MII). Presence of different meiotic proteins during

different meiotic signpost are presented.

Supplementary Figures:

Figure S1. Nuclear dynamics of Hht1 during meiotic events. (A) Panel shows a

false color image of Figure 1(A) generated by using Fiji's "thermal" LUT to show a

heatmap of mRFP signal intensity for better understanding of nuclear dynamics.

Selected time frames from Figure 1 (A) covering different meiotic signposts i.e. FS-HT,

HT-MTI, MTI, MTI-MI MI and MI-MII are chosen for optimal representation. Red in the

heatmap are representing high mRFP intensity and highly r4eswcompacted nucleus. (B)

Closeup panels showing Pre-FS, MTI, MI and MII events. The scale bars in (A) and (B)

equal 5 μm. (C) Quantitation of Hht1-mRFP signal area. (D) The graph showing

quantitation of nuclear size by using Feret's diameter function of Fiji. For (C) and (D),

metaphase I is considered as a t0 minutes. Timing t (-60) to t (-20) are representing

horsetail stage. t0+10 to t0+50 is meiosis I while t0+60 representing meiosis II. More

than 35 cells were analyzed from at least two independent movies. Values in the graphs

represents mean and error bars represent 95% class intervals. Significance was

evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test.

Figure S2. Rec8 cohesin dynamics during early meiotic stages. (A-C) Time-lapse

images of meiotic cells carrying Rec8-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (7748 x 7840) captured

every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Rec8-GFP and

(B) merged Rec8-GFP Hht1-mRFP show cohesin dynamics during early meiotic events

covering Pre-fusion (Pre-FS), Karyogamy (FS) and early horse-tailing (HT) stage. (C)

Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in

minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm.

Figure S3. Linear element Rec27 foci elimination. (A-C) Time-lapse images of

meiotic cells carrying Rec27-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (7777 x 7779) were captured every

10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Rec27-GFP and (B)

merged Rec27-GFP Hht1-mRFP show linear element dynamics during different meiotic

events covering late horsetail (HT), metaphase I (MTI), meiosis I (MI), metaphase II

(MTII) and meiosis II (MII). (C) Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B).

Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (D) Durations of

Rec27 foci elimination before metaphase I. (E) Quantitation of Rec27-GFP fluorescence

intensity. More than 35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data

in (D) and (E) represents mean timing and fluorescence intensities respectively.

Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test.

Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure S4. Rec27 dynamics during premeiotic and meiotic stage. (A-C) Time-lapse

images of meiotic cells carrying Rec27-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (7777 x 7779) were

captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A)

Rec27-GFP and (B) merged Rec27-GFP Hht1-mRFP show linear element dynamics

during different meiotic events covering pre-fusion (Pre-FS), Karyogamy (FS), horsetail

(HT), metaphase I (MTI), meiosis I (MI), metaphase II (MTII) and meiosis II (MII). (C)

Closeup images of selected time frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in

minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. More than 35 cells from at least two independent

movies were analyzed.

Figure S5. Nuclear dynamics of Shugoshin Sgo1. (A-C) Time-lapse images of

meiotic cells carrying Sgo1-GFP and Hht1-mRFP (7864 x 7865) were captured every 10

minutes for 8 hours and selected frames are shown. Panel (A) Sgo1-GFP and (B)

merged Sgo1-GFP Hht1-mRFP show nuclear dynamics during different meiotic events

covering late horsetail (HT) to meiosis II (MII). (C) Closeup images of selected time

frames from panel (B). Numbers represent timing in minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm.

(D) Durations of Sgo1-GFP foci disappearance during metaphase I. (E) Quantitation of

Rec27-GFP fluorescence intensity. More than 35 cells from at least two independent

movies were analyzed. Data in (D) and (E) represents mean timing and fluorescence

intensities respectively. Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by

Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure S6. Rad11 and Rad52 repair foci. (A) Panels showing time-lapse images of

meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone (Hht1-mRFP), RPA (Rad11-CFP)

and Rad52 (Rad52-YFP) (7327 x 7328). Column1 representing the dynamics of repair

foci during different meiotic events encompassing horsetail (HT) to meiosis II (MII).

Column 2 is a closeup image of selected time points. Numbers represent timing in

minutes and scale bars equal 5 µm. (B-C) Durations of (B) Rad11 and (C) Rad52 repair

foci appearance and loss during horsetail and metaphase I stage. (D- E) Quantitation of

(D) Rad11-CFP and (E) Rad52-YFP fluorescence intensity. More than 35 cells from at

least two independent movies were analyzed. Data in (B-C and D-E) represents mean

values of timing and fluorescence intensities respectively. Significance was evaluated

using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95%

class intervals.

Figure S7. Microtubule dynamics. (A) Panels showing live-cell images of meiotic cells

carrying fluorescently tagged histone (Hht1-GFP) and microtubule (Atb2-mCherry)

(8055 x 8203). Time lapse images were captured every 10 minutes for 8 hours and

selected frames are shown. Row 1 (Atb2-mCherry) and 2 (merged image of Atb2-

mCherry Hht1-mRFP) show microtubule dynamics during different premeiotic and

meiotic events covering pre-fusion to meiosis II (MII). Row 3 is showing the closeup

images of selected time frames of row 2. Numbers represent timing in minutes and

scale bars equal 5 µm. (B) Durations of microtubule depolymerization and elongation

during different meiotic stages covering late horsetail (HT) to meiosis II (MII). More than

35 cells from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Data represents mean

timing of the microtubule dynamics. Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA

followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure S8. Aurora-B and Bub1 kinase dynamics. Panel (A) Ark1-GFP (8053 x 8056)

and (C) Bub1-GFP (8055 x 8067) showing the duration of fluorescent signal dynamics

during different meiotic events. Panel (B) Ark1-GFP and (D) Bub1-GFP showing the quantitation of fluorescent intensities. For both Ark1 and Bub1 dynamics, more than 35 cells of each from at least two independent movies were analyzed. Values presented in (A, C) and (B, D) are the means of timing and fluorescent intensities respectively. Significance was evaluated using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Error bars represent 95% class intervals.

Figure S8. Quantitation graphs of all the proteins analyzed in this meiosis atlas.

Movie 1: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta.

Movie 2: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and PCNA (EGFP-Pcn1). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and EGFP-Pcn1 is green.

Movie 3: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and Tos4 (Tos4-GFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and Tos4-GFPn1 is green.

Movie 4: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and Rec8 (Rec8-GFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and Rec8-GFP is green.

Movie 5: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and Rec27 (Rec27-GFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and Rec27-GFP is green.

Movie 6: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and Sgo1 (Sgo1-GFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and Sgo1-GFP is green.

Movie 7: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) and Moa1 (Moa1-GFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta and Moa1-GFP is green.

Movie 8: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-mRFP) RPA (Rad11-CFP) and Rad52 (Rad52-YFP). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying hht1-mRFP. Hht1-mRFP is represented by false color magenta, Rad11 is cyan and Rad52 is yellow.

Movie 9: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged histone 3 (Hht1-GFP) and tubulin (Atb2-mCherry). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying Hht1-GFP. Hht1-GFP is represented by false color green and Atb2-mCherry is magenta.

Movie 10: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged Aroura B (Ark1-GFP) and tubulin (Atb2-mCherry). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying Ark1-GFP. Ark1-GFP is represented by false color green and Atb2-mCherry is magenta.

Movie 11: Live cell imaging of meiotic cells carrying fluorescently tagged Bub1 (Bub1-GFP) and tubulin (Atb2-mCherry). Representative time lapse imaging of zygotic meiotic cells carrying Bub1-GFP. Bub1-GFP is represented by false color green and Atb2-mCherry is magenta.

Table S1. List of strains used in this study.

Strain	Genotype	Reference
3050	h+ leu1-32 ura4:: EGFP-pcn1+	Meister et al 2003
5608	h- hht1-mRFP: KanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18	Lab stock
5609	h+ hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18	Lab Stock
5615	h- hht1-mRFP: hphMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1	Lab Stock
7327	h+ hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 rad11-Cerulean::hphMX rad22-YFP-natMX leu1-32 ade6-M210 ? ura4-D18	Lab Stock
7328	h- hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 rad11-Cerulean::hphMX rad22-YFP-natMX leu1-32 ade6-M210 ? ura4-D18	Lab Stock
7748	h- rec8-GFP:KanMX6 hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 pat1-114 ura4-D18 ade6-m216	Escorcia 2017
7840	h+ rec8-GFP:KanMX6 hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 pat1-114 ura4-D18 ade6-m216	Escorcia 2017
7777	h+ rec27-205-GFP-KanMX hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 pat1-114 ura4-D18 ade6-3049 lys4-95	Escorcia 2017
7779	h- rec27-205-GFP-KanMX hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 pat1-114 ura4-D18 ade6-3049 lys4-95	Escorcia 2017
7864	h- sgo1-FLAG:GFP hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 ura4-D18 leu? ade6-M210	Escorcia 2017
7865	h+ sgo1-FLAG:GFP hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 ura4-D18 leu? ade6-M210	Escorcia 2017
8047	h+ KanMX6-moa1-5'-GFP-3pk-moa1 hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 ura4-D18 leu1-32	Lab Stock
8048	h- KanMX6-moa1-5'-GFP-3pk-moa1 hht1-mRFP:KanMX6 ura4-D18 leu1-32	Lab Stock
8053	h+ ark1-GFP:KanR Z::Padh-mCherry-atb2:natR ade6-M210	Lab Stock
8055	h+ Z::Padh-mCherry-atb2:NatR ura4-D18 leu1-32	Lab Stock
8056	h- Z::Padh-mCherry-atb2:NatR ura4-D18	Lab Stock
8067	h- bub1-GFP::his3+ leu1-32 ade6-M210	Lab Stock
8203	h- hht1-GFP-ura4+ ura4-D18 leu1-32 ade6-M210	Lab Stock
8848	h+ Tos4-GFP::KanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-M210 can1-1? his3-	Lab Stock

	D1D1	

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Table S2. Timing of meiotic markers and descriptive statistics.

Table S3. Descriptive and comparative statistics of meiotic markers.

Fig. 1

Fig S1.

Fig. 2

Fig. S2

Fig. S4

Fig. S5

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. S6

Fig. 6

A

Atb2

Atb2 Hht1

Atb2 Hht1

−220   −180'   −120'   −20'   0'   10'   40'   60'

Atb2-mCherry

B

39.1
12.0
12.3
10.9
22.9
12.3
14.6

End of Spindle Depolymerisation in HT
Spindle Elongation Before MTI

Constant Spindle Length During MTI
Extended Spindle Elongation in MTI-MI

Spindle Depolymerisation &
Restart of Spindle Elongation in MI

Constant Spindle Length in MTII

Spindle Elongation &
Reductional Division in MII

Time (min)

Fig. S7

Horse Tailing **MT I** **MI** **MT II** **MII**

-60' -50' -40' -30' -20' -10' 0' 10' 20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70'

A Ark1

B Ark1 Atb2

C Ark1 Atb2 -10' 10' 30' 50'

D Bub1

E Bub1 Atb2

F Ark1 Atb2 -10' 10' 30' 50'

Fig. 7

Fig S8

Fig. 8

Fig. S9