Uncovering the multi-step process of stable microtubule bundle formation upon entry into quiescence

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<u>Abstract</u>

Cells fine-tune microtubule assembly in both space and time, to give rise to distinct edifices with specific cellular functions. In proliferating cells, microtubules are highly dynamics, yet, proliferation cessation often lead to their stabilization. One of the most stable microtubule structures identified to date is the nuclear bundle assembled in yeast quiescent cells. In this report, we characterize the original multistep process driving the assembly of this structure. We show that its follows a precise temporality that relies on the sequential action of specific kinesin-14/kinesins-5 and involves both microtubule-kinetochore and kinetochore-kinetochore interactions. Upon quiescence exit, the microtubule bundle disassembles via a cooperative process involving the Kinesin-8 and its full disassembly is required to authorize cells re-entry into proliferation. Overall, our study not only provides the first description, at the molecular scale, of the entire life cycle of a stable microtubule structure *in vivo*, but also sheds light on its function as a sort of "checkpoint" for cell cycle resumption.

Introduction

Microtubules (MT) are hollow cylindrical polymers assembled by the non-covalent

interaction of α- and β-tubulin heterodimers. MTs are generally nucleated at MT organizing

centers (MTOC) by a ɣ-tubulin complex (ɣ-TuC) that acts as a template and stabilizes the so-

called MT "minus-end" (Liu et al., 2021; Roostalu and Surrey, 2017; Sanchez and Feldman,

2017; Thawani and Petry, 2021). At the opposite end, the "plus-end" (+end), MTs elongate

by the addition of GTP tubulin. The β-tubulin bound GTP is hydrolyzed and stable but

transient GDP + Pi intermediates are generated in the region immediately trailing the

growing +end. A subsequent Pi release favors MT depolymerization that can be rescued by

de novo GTP-tubulin addition (Cleary and Hancock, 2021; Gudimchuk and McIntosh, 2021).

As such, MTs alternate periods of growth and shrinkage, a behavior called dynamic

instability (Mitchison and Kirschner, 1984). *In vivo*, a profusion of MT associated proteins

(MAPs) regulate MT length and dynamics (Bodakuntla et al., 2019; Goodson and Jonasson,

2018). Besides, MTs are often assembled from multiple tubulin variants or isotypes, and

modified by a cohort of post-translational modifications that modulate MT dynamics directly

or by influencing the recruitment of MAPs (Janke and Magiera, 2020; Roll-Mecak, 2020).

Other MAPs organize MTs into high-ordered edifices either by cross-linking MTs or by

connecting them with cellular structures such as membranes, chromosomes or components

of the actin cytoskeleton (Bodakuntla et al., 2019; Meiring et al., 2020). Cells fine-tune these

mechanisms both in space and in time to give rise to distinct MT architectures with specific

function.

In proliferating cells, MT dynamic is crucial for their functions. It allows exploring the

cell volume searching for structures to "capture", like centromeres during mitosis, or to

exert pushing or pulling forces required for various cellular processes such as cell migration

or morphogenesis (Heald and Khodjakov, 2015; Kirschner and Mitchison, 1986). Yet, the MT

cytoskeleton can extensively rearrange and assemble more stable MT structures, notably

when cells change fate (Meiring et al., 2020; Röper, 2020). For example, in terminally-

differentiated cells, such as epithelial cells, cardiomyocytes or neurons, stable MT networks

make up the majority, and ensure critical cellular functions such as cell shape maintenance

or long-distance intra-cellular transport (Baas et al., 2016; Muroyama and Lechler, 2017).

Defects in MT stabilization are at the origin of many human pathologies, including neuro-

degenerative diseases and ciliopathies (Anvarian et al., 2019; Wheway et al., 2018). Effectors

responsible for MT stabilization have been actively searched for since the 1980's. In

mammals, the involvement of specific MAPs such as Tau, MAP2, MAP6 and PRC1, or tubulin

post-translational modifications have been extensively studied. While their contributions to

MT stabilization are central and undisputable, their sole actions do not fully explain the

observed levels of MT stability in many types of non-dividing cells (Hahn et al., 2019).

For years, yeast species have been instrumental in deciphering mechanisms that

regulate MT dynamics in eukaryotes. While proliferating yeast cells display a dynamic MT

network (Winey and Bloom, 2012), proliferation cessation goes with the formation of

dramatically stable MT structures in both *S. cerevisiae* and *S. pombe* (Laporte and Sagot,

2014; Laporte et al., 2013, 2015). Upon quiescence establishment, *S. cerevisiae* assemble a

bundle composed of stable parallel MTs, hereafter called Q-nMT bundle, for Quiescent-cell

nuclear Microtubule bundle, that emanates from the nuclear side of the spindle pole body

(SPB), the yeast equivalent of the centrosome. The Q-nMT bundle spans the entire nucleus

and relocalizes kinetochores and centromeres that remain attached to its MT +ends (Laporte

and Sagot, 2014). Since MTs embedded into the Q-nMT bundle are not all of the same

length, they confer to the structure a typical arrow shape. When cells exit quiescence, the Q-

nMT bundle depolymerizes and, by pulling the attached centromeres back to the SPB, allows

the recovery of the typical Rabl-like configuration of chromosomes found in G1 yeast cells

(Jin et al., 1998). The molecular mechanisms underlying the formation of this peculiar stable

MT structure and its physiological function(s) are not understood. Yet, cells impaired for Q-

nMT bundle formation have a compromised survival rate in quiescence and a drastically

reduced fitness upon cell cycle re-entry (Laporte and Sagot, 2014; Laporte et al., 2013,

2015).

Here, we demonstrate that the Q-nMT bundle formation is a multistep process that

follows a precise temporal sequence. The first step requires the kinesin-14 Kar3, its regulator

Cik1 and the EB1 homolog Bim1, and leads to the formation of a short (≈ 1 µm) and stable

bundle that resembles a half mitotic spindle. Importantly, in this first step, MT

polymerization and stabilization are coupled. In a second step, additional MTs polymerize

from the SPB, elongate, and are zipped to pre-existing ones in a Cin8/kinesin-5 dependant

manner. The full Q-nMT bundle stabilization is established in a third and last step that

requires the kinesin-5 Kip1. Our observations further indicate that Q-nMT bundle assembly

requires not only MT-kinetochore attachment but also inter-kinetochore interactions.

Finally, we show that, upon quiescence exit, the Q-nMT bundle disassembles from its +ends,

where each MT depolymerizes in coordination with its neighbors, via the action of the

depolymerase Kip3, a member of the kinesin-8 family. A complete Q-nMT bundle

disassembly is required to authorize cells re-entry into the proliferation cycle. Overall, this

study describes for the first time the entire life cycle of a MT structure from the molecular

mechanisms involved in its formation and stabilization to its disassembly and further reveals

that this atypical quiescent specific structure acts as a sort of "checkpoint" for cell cycle

resumption upon quiescence exit.

Results

The Q-nMT bundle formation is a three-step process

To investigate whether the Q-nMT bundle was stable by default, *i.e.* intrinsically stable, or assembled as a dynamic structure and then stabilized, we quantified Q-nMT bundle length (Fig. 1A) and thickness (Fig. 1B) upon quiescence establishment following carbon source exhaustion. We found that the Q-nMT bundle assembly was a 3-step process. In an initial phase (phase I), MTs elongated from the SPB to reach ≈0.8 μm. The number of these so-called phase I-MTs was about the same as in a mitotic spindle (see inset of Fig. 1B and Sup. Fig. 1A). Importantly, phase I-MTs are resistant to nocodazole (Noc), a MT poison that causes dynamic MT depolymerization, indicating that their stabilization was concomitant with their polymerization (Fig. 1A-B). In a second phase, that started ≈10h after glucose exhaustion, additional MTs emerged from the SPB (phase II-MTs) and elongated along phase-I MTs, approximatively doubling the thickness of the phase I MT bundle (Fig. 1B and Sup Fig. 1A). At this stage, the tip of the newly elongated MTs were instable (Fig. 1A-B). Full Q-nMT bundle stabilization was reached ≈48h after glucose exhaustion (phase III), as Noc treatment affected neither Q-nMT bundle length nor its thickness (Fig. 1A-B and Sup. Fig. 1B). Another way to shed light on the Q-nMT bundle formation steps was to plot Q-nMT bundle width as a function of length for each individual cells before and after Noc treatment (Fig. 1C).

To confirm the above multistep process, we first followed Nuf2-GFP, a protein that localize at the MT +end. In phase I, Nuf2-GFP signal relocates from SPB to the distal part of elongating Q-nMT bundles (Sup. Fig. 1D). In phase II, when cells were treated with Noc, the Nuf2-GFP signal followed depolymerizing MTs (Fig. 1D), testifying for the instability of phase II MTs. By contrast, the Nuf2-GFP signal remained immobile in phase III, when cells have fully

stabilized Q-nMT bundles (Fig. 1D). Second, we measured the γ-tubulin (Tub4) signal at the

SPB and found that Tub4 started accumulating at the SPB at the onset of phase I to reach a

plateau at the end of phase II (Fig. 1E and Sup. Fig. 1E). Interestingly, the amount of Tub4 at

the SPB was proportional to the thickness of the Q-nMT bundle (Sup. Fig. 1F). Finally, in

order to confirm the two waves of MT elongation, we developed a strain expressing mTQZ-

Tub1 from the endogenous TUB1 promoter and mRuby-TUB1 under the ADH2 promoter, a

promoter that is active only after glucose exhaustion. We observed that mRuby-TUB1 was

incorporated into the Q-nMT bundle only after phase I (Fig. 1F and Sup. Fig. 1G) confirming

the existence of a second wave of MT elongation in phase II. All the above information lead

us to propose the model presented in Fig. 1G (see figure legend).

Q-nMT bundle formation is an active process regulated in time

Increasing viscosity of the cytoplasm was shown to dampen MT dynamics (Molines et

al., 2022). Upon quiescence establishment, yeast cells experience a fluid phase to solid-like

transition (Munder et al., 2016; Joyner et al., 2016) and an acidification (Jacquel et al., 2021)

that could contribute to Q-nMT bundle formation. Several evidences indicate that these

changes in physico-chemical properties are not involved in Q-nMT formation. First, 4-day-old

quiescent cells can simultaneously display both dynamic cytoplasmic MTs (cMT) and a stable

Q-nMT bundle (Sup. Fig. 1H and (Laporte et al., 2013)). Second, when we mimicked a fluid

phase to solid like transition in proliferating cells by artificially dropping the pH, no stable

MTs were observed, while F-actin aggregation was induced (Sup. Fig. 1I) as expected from

(Peters et al., 2013). Third, 2-day-old quiescent cells displaying a phase III Q-nMT bundle

were able to grow *de novo* dynamic MTs after a pulsed-chase Noc treatment (Sup. Fig. 1J).

If Q-nMT bundle formation was solely depending on physico-chemical changes, this

structure should be able to assemble in late quiescence. By treating cells with Noc upon

glucose exhaustion, we managed to prevent Q-nMT bundle formation in early quiescence

(Fig. 1H). Strikingly, when the drug was washed out 24 h later, no Q-nMT bundle assembled,

even several days after Noc removal (Fig. 1H). We verified that these cells did enter

quiescence as they assembled actin bodies (Fig. 1H, right panel), another quiescent cell

specific structure (Sagot et al., 2006). This experiment strongly suggests that Q-nMT

formation is an active process induced by a transient signal emitted upon glucose

exhaustion.

Mutants that cannot assemble Q-nMT bundle have a reduced viability in quiescence

and a decreased capacity to form colonies upon quiescence exit (Laporte et al., 2013). To

establish a causal link between the absence of Q-nMT bundle and the above phenotypes, we

took advantage of our ability to prevent conditionally Q-nMT bundle formation in WT cells

using early Noc treatment. We demonstrated that in the absence of Q-nMT bundle, both

prototroph and auxotroph WT cells loose viability in quiescence and that survivors had a

reduced capacity to generate a progeny upon quiescence exit (Sup. Fig. 1K). This reinforce

the idea that the Q-nMT bundle is required for cell survival upon chronological aging.

Tubulin steady state level and Tub3 isoform are critical for Q-nMT bundle formation.

We then focused on deciphering the molecular mechanisms involved in Q-nMT

bundle formation. Yeast cells express two α-tubulin isotypes, Tub1 and Tub3. In proliferating

cells, Tub1 make up the majority (Aiken et al., 2019; Nsamba et al., 2021; Schatz et al., 1986).

In 4-day-old cells, both isoforms were embedded into the Q-nMT bundle (Fig. 2A and Sup.

Fig. 2A). As Tub3 stabilizes MTs *in vitro* (Bode et al., 2003), it may be key for Q-nMT bundle

formation in quiescence. To test this hypothesis, we first analyzed the phenotype of *tub3Δ*

cells. In phase II, *tub3Δ* cells displayed short MT bundles that were highly sensitive to Noc. In

phase III, no MT bundle could be detected (Fig. 2B). Thus in this mutant, MT bundles

assembled during phase I were not stable and ultimately collapsed. Yet, in *tub3Δ* cells, the

steady state amount of α-tubulin is significantly decreased (Sup. Fig. 2B and (Nsamba et al.,

2021)). Thus, the amount of α-tubulin, but not Tub3 itself, could be important for Q-nMT

bundle formation. Indeed, mutants impaired for α- and β-tubulin folding, such as the

prefolding complex mutants *pac10Δ*, *gim3Δ* or *yke2Δ,* or for tubulin heterodimer formation

such as *pac2Δ*, or for β-tubulin folding, such as *cin2Δ* or *cin4Δ*, all of which displaying a

decreased amount of tubulin, were unable to assemble a Q-nMT bundle (Sup. Fig. 2C-D).

To identify the role of Tub3 *per se*, we took advantage of the "*Tub1-only*" mutant in

which the *TUB3* gene was replaced by the *TUB1* gene at the *TUB3* locus. This mutant only

expresses Tub1 and displays an α-tubulin level similar to WT (Sup. Fig. 2B and (Nsamba et al.,

2021)). We found that "*Tub1-only*" cells display shorter but stable Q-nMT bundles in phase

III (Fig. 2C). Interestingly, "*Tub1-only*" Q-nMT bundles were thinner than WT Q-nMT bundles

(Fig. 2D). Overall, these data indicate Tub3 is involved in MT elongation in phase II.

Kinetochores are critical for phase I but dispensable for the maintenance of Q-nMT

bundles.

Kinetochore components are enriched at the Q-nMT bundle +end ((Laporte et al.,

2013) and Sup Fig. 3A). We thus wondered if kinetochore-MT attachment could play a role in

Q-nMT bundle formation. First, we disrupted kinetochore-MT attachment upon phase I

using the well-established *ndc80-1* allele (Cheeseman et al., 2006; DeLuca et al., 2018; Wigge

et al., 1998). As shown in Fig. 3A, no Q-nMT bundles were detected in *ndc80-1* cells shifted

to 37°C at the onset of quiescence entry. Second, we focused on the chromosomal

passenger complex (CPC: Bir1/Survivin, Sli15/INCENP, Nbl1/Borealin and Ipl1/Aurora B), a

complex known to regulate kinetochore-MT attachment dynamics (Cairo and Lacefield,

2020). We found that upon quiescence entry, Ipl1 inactivation impeded MT bundle

formation (Fig. 3B). While we could not detect Ipl1 and Ndc1 in quiescent cells, we found

that Sli15-GFP and Bir1-GFP localized along the Q-nMT bundle with an enrichment at the Q-

nMT bundle +end (Fig. 3C). The deletion of Sli15 did not affect Q-nMT bundle (Fig. Sup. 3E).

However, in 4-days old *bir1Δ* cells, Q-nMT bundle length were slightly shorter and not fully

stabilized (Fig. 3D). Finally, we investigated the involvement of Bim1, a MT +end binding

protein that plays a role in kinetochore MT-end on attachment (Dudziak et al., 2021; Thomas

et al., 2016). We have previously shown that Bim1 localizes all along the Q-nMT bundle but

that its deletion has no impact on Q-nMT bundle formation even in the presence of Noc

((Laporte et al., 2013) and Fig. 3D). Interestingly, the amount of Bim1 was correlated with

tubulin incorporation during Q-nMT bundle formation (Sup Fig. 3D). When we combined

bim1Δ with *bir1Δ,* cells hardly assembled MT structures that vanished after Noc treatment

(Fig. 3D). This demonstrates that in the absence of Bim1, Bir1 was critical for Q-nMT bundle

stabilization in phase I. A similar phenotype was observed with *SLI15* deletion (Sup Fig. 3E).

Interestingly, the viability of *bim1Δ bir1Δ* cells in quiescence was drastically reduced (Sup Fig.

3G). Together, these experiments show that kinetochore-MT attachments are critical for the

initiation of Q-nMT bundle assembly.

We then hypothesized that inter-kinetochore interactions may stabilize the parallel

MTs embedded into the Q-nMT bundle. To test this idea, we analyzed MT organization in

slk19Δ cells that are defective in kinetochore clustering (Richmond et al., 2013). In

quiescence, Slk19 was enriched at both Q-nMT bundle extremities (Fig. 3E). *slk19Δ* cells

displayed shorter and thinner MT structures that were not stable, i.e. sensitive to Noc

treatmant (Fig. 3F). Since Bim1 has been involved in kinetochore-kinetochore interaction, we

combined slk19Δ with bim1Δ. MT structures detected in slk19Δ bim1Δ cells hardly reached

≈1 μm and vanished upon Noc treatment. In addition, kinetochores localized as a rosette

around the SPB (Fig. 3F) and cell viability was strongly compromised (Sup. Fig. 3G). This

demonstrates that in the absence of Bim1, Slk19 is strictly essential for MT bundling and

stabilization in phase I. Furthermore, since kinetochores are known to be cross-linked by the

monopolin complex (Mam1, Lrs4, Hrr25 and Csm1 (Corbett et al., 2010)) we analyzed the

phenotype of mam1Δ, lrs4Δ and csm1Δ cells in quiescence. Most of them displayed short MT

structures often arranged in a star-like array (Fig. 3G-H, Sup. Fig. 3F). As for Bir1 and Skl19,

the combination of bim1 deletion with monopolin disruption worsens MT structure length

and stability (Fig. 3H) and the cell viability was strongly compromised (Sup. Fig. 3G). Cells

impaired for Spo13, a protein involved in monopolin recruitment to kinetochores (Lee et al.,

2004) displayed a similar phenotype (Fig. 3G-H). Altogether, these experiments show that

inter-kinetochore interactions are critical for Q-nMT bundle assembly.

Lastly, we investigated if kinetochore-MT interactions were required for Q-nMT

bundle stability once it is formed. In 5-days old WT cells, we used a UV-pulsed-laser to break

the Q-nMT bundle into two pieces (Fig. 3I). The presence of dynamic cMTs after laser

ablation testified for cell viability (Fig. 3I). In most cases, the length of both the released

fragment and the fragment attached to the SPB remained constant (Fig. 3I, Sup. Fig. 3H). By

contrast, in proliferating cells, dynamic anaphase spindles promptly disassembled following

a pulse-laser break (Sup. Fig. 3I). This demonstrates that once Q-nMT bundles are formed,

they do not need MT-kinetochore interaction to be maintained. Accordingly, Ndc80 or Ipl1

inactivation in cells that are already in quiescence had no effect on the Q-nMT bundle

maintenance (Sup. Fig. 3B-C). Importantly, the above experiment indicates that once

formed, Q-nMT stability is established and maintained throughout its length.

Specific kinesins are required for each step of Q-nMT bundle formation

To go further in the deciphering of the molecular mechanism involved in Q-nMT

bundle formation, we focused on kinesins. Kar3 is a kinesin that, in complex with its

regulator Cik1, can generate parallel MT bundles from a MT organizing center (MTOC) both

in vitro and in proliferative cells (Manning et al., 1999; Mieck et al., 2015; Molodtsov et al.,

2016). In quiescence, we found that Kar3-3GFP localized at the SPB, but also as dots along

the Q-nMT bundle (Fig. 4A). In 4 day-old *kar3Δ* cells, the majority of the detected MT

structures were extremely short compared to WT (Fig. 4B and Sup Fig. 4A). Same results

were obtained in *cik1Δ* but not in *vik1Δ* cells, which lack the alternate Kar3 regulators (Fig.

4B). Thus, the Kar3/Cik1 complex is required for phase I.

Cin8 is a Kinesin-5 that cross-links MTs (Bodrug et al., 2020; Pandey et al., 2021; Singh

et al., 2018), and as such, could play a role in Q-nMT bundle stabilization. Cin8 was hardly

detectable in quiescent cells (Sup. Fig. 4B) and *cin8Δ* cells assembled Q-nMT bundles that

were thinner than in WT cells (Fig. 4C-E). Yet, these thinner bundles became stabilized in

phase III (Fig. 4C and Sup. Fig. 4C-D). Overall, these results strongly suggest that Cin8 is

required for phase II MT nucleation and/or elongation but not for stabilization in phase III.

Yeast have an additional Kinesin-5 called Kip1 (Fridman et al., 2013). In quiescence,

most of the Kip1-GFP signal was observed at the Q-nMT bundle +end (Fig. 4F). In *kip1Δ* cells,

phase I was slightly delayed and Q-nMT bundle were not stabilized in phase III (Fig. 4G-H),

yet they were as thick as WT Q-nMT bundles (Sup. Fig. 4E). These data demonstrate that

Kip1 is required for Q-nMT bundle stabilization in phase III. Of note, in phase I and II, Q-nMT

bundles were slightly longer in cells deleted for the Kinesin-8 Kip3, a MT depolymerase

((Fukuda et al., 2014) Fig. 4 G-H and Sup. Fig. 4G) but were unaffected in cells deleted for

Kip2, a kinesin that stabilizes cytoplasmic MTs ((Hibbel et al., 2015) Sup. Fig. 4F-G). Taken

together our results demonstrate that each phase of Q-nMT bundle assembly involves

specific kinesins.

Q-nMT bundle disassembly conditions SPB duplication/separation

Finally, we questioned the molecular mechanism of Q-nMT bundle disassembly upon

quiescence exit. Cycloheximide prevented Q-nMT bundle disassembly indicating that this

process requires *de novo* protein synthesis (Fig. 5A). We then measured Q-nMT bundle

thickness upon depolymerization, and found that while Q-nMT bundles shortened, they did

not get thinner (Fig. 5B). In agreement, Nuf2-GFP clusters found at the Q-nMT bundle +end

moved back to the SPB while the Nuf2-GFP clusters localized in the middle of the structure

remained immobile until they are reached by these later (Sup. Fig. 5 A). This shows that all

the MT +ends did not start depolymerizing at the same time, and that longer MTs

depolymerized first. This finding is in agreement with our model in which MTs are cross-

linked all along the Q-nMT bundle length.

Since Kip3 is the only well-characterized yeast MT depolymerase, we studied Q-nMT

bundle disassembly in *kip3Δ* cells and observed that it was drastically delayed (Fig. 5C), yet

its overall depolymerization rate remained unaffected (Sup. Fig. 5B). In fact, we found that in

WT cells, Kip3 needs to be resynthesized upon quiescence exit (Fig. 5D). We searched for

proteins that could be involved in Q-nMT bundle disassembly together with Kip3. Among

proteins required for mitotic spindle disassembly, we found that inactivation of *CDC14*,

CDC15, *CDH1*, *DCC1* and *TOR1* had no effect on Q-nMT bundle disassembly, just as with the

inactivation of Ipl1 or proteins involved in kinetochore-MT attachment (Sup. Fig. 5 C to F).

The sole additional actor we found was She1, a dynein regulator (Bergman et al., 2012),

which deletion strongly aggravated the *kip3Δ* phenotype (Fig. 5C). Thus, Q-nMT bundle

disassembly does not rely on the canonical mitotic spindle disassembly machinery but,

rather, specifically required Kip3 and She1.

Importantly, when we followed quiescence exit at the individual cell level, Q-nMT

bundle depolymerization always preceded SPB duplication/separation (Fig. 5A) and thus, in

both WT and in *kip3Δ* cells (Fig. 5E, F). In fact, when we impeded Q-nMT bundle disassembly

using *kip3Δ she1Δ*, we found that SPB duplication was severely delayed (Fig. 5G-H, Sup. Fig.

5G-H). Importantly, *kip3Δ she1Δ* cells proliferated just like WT cells (Sup. Fig. 5G) and upon

quiescence exit, these mutant cells disassembled actin bodies just as in WT cells (Sup. Fig.

5I), demonstrating that *kip3Δ she1Δ* cells were not impaired in sensing quiescent exit signals.

These observations indicate that Q-nMT bundle has to be disassembled to allow SPB

duplication/separation upon quiescence exit and cell cycle re-entry.

Discussion

Our results shed light on the precise temporal sequences that generate a Q-nMT bundle upon quiescence establishment in yeast. From bacteria to human stem cells, modifications of the cell physico-chemical properties are known to accompany quiescence establishment. Among these modifications, a reduction of the cellular volume increases molecular crowding (Joyner et al., 2016) and pH acidification causes changes in the surface charges of macromolecules and viscosity increases (Charruyer and Ghadially, 2018; Jacquel et al., 2021; Munder et al., 2016; Persson et al., 2020). Much evidence points to these modifications as a trigger for the auto-assembly of several types of enzyme-containing granules (Munder et al., 2016; Petrovska et al., 2014; Rabouille and Alberti, 2017), or complex structures such as P-bodies and Proteasome Storage Granules (Peters et al., 2013; Jacquel et al., 2021; Currie et al., 2023). Recently, Molines and colleagues showed that cytoplasmic viscosity modulates MT dynamics *in vivo* (Molines et al., 2022). Here, we show that Q-nMT bundle formation does not rely on modifications of the physicochemical properties that cells experience upon quiescence establishment (Sup. Fig. 1). In fact, dynamic cMTs and a stable Q-nMT bundle can be observed simultaneously in a quiescent cell (Sup. Fig. 1H), while physicochemical properties evolve in parallel both in the nucleus and in the cytoplasm (Joyner et al., 2016). Importantly, reduction of the cellular volume, pH acidification and increased viscosity are observed within minutes upon glucose starvation (Joyner et al., 2016) while the Q-nMT bundle needs a couple of days to be fully assembled (Fig. 1A). Further, we show that its formation cannot be delayed in time (Fig. 1H) and as such probably depends on an active process induced by a transient signal emitted upon glucose exhaustion. We speculate that the SPB may act as a platform that integrates this signal, and transfers it to the MT machinery in order to assemble a stable parallel structure.

As it is required for the onset of Q-nMT bundle formation (Fig. 3B), Aurora B/Ilp1, a

kinase that plays a key role at the MT-kinetochore interface where it senses tension, could

be one of the target of the above-mentioned nutritional signal. In parallel, upon quiescence

establishment, chromosomes hyper-condensation (Guidi et al., 2015; Rutledge et al., 2015)

may modify tension at the kinetochore/MT interface and as such could contribute to the

initiation of phase I. Besides, Bim1 has also been involved in MT-kinetochore attachment

(Dudziak et al., 2021; Akhmanova and Steinmetz, 2015). Although it deletion alone has no

effect on Q-nMT bundle formation, its role become critical for phase I if kinetochore-MT

interaction are already destabilized by the absence of other CPC components such as Sli15

and Bir1 (Fig. 3D and Sup. Fig. 3E). Altogether, these observations point to kinetochore-MT

interaction as essential for phase I initiation, as confirmed by the absence of Q-nMT bundle

in the *ndc80-1* mutant (Fig. 3A).

In phase I, SPB-anchored MTs elongate and are concomitantly stabilized (Fig. 1 A-C).

This step requires the kinesin-14 Kar3 and its regulator Cik1 (Fig. 4B). During mating

(Molodtsov et al., 2016), and in early mitosis, when half-spindles form (Kornakov et al.,

2020), Kar3/Cik1, together with Bim1, align and cross-link growing MTs along existing ones,

thereby promoting the organization of MTs into parallel bundles. Yet, in mitosis, the kinesin-

14/EB1 complex promotes MT dynamics (Kornakov et al., 2020). In phase I, whether the

robust MT stabilization depends on the modification of the kinesin-14/EB1 complex

properties or is due to additional specific cross-linker(s) remains to be clarified (Fig. 6b).

In quiescence, deletion of either monopolin or Slk19 leads to the formation of short,

shattered and flared MT structures, phenotypes that are worsened by the deletion of Bim1

(Fig. 3F-H and Sup. Fig. 3F). Since Monopolin and Slk19 are involved in kinetochore clustering

(Plowman et al., 2019; Rabitsch et al., 2003; Tóth et al., 2000; Lee et al., 2004; Mittal et al.,

2019; Movshovich et al., 2008; Richmond et al., 2013; Zeng et al., 1999), we speculate that

kinetochore-kinetochore interaction may not only help preventing depolymerization of

single MT, but also constrain elongating phase I MTs and facilitate their concomitant cross-

linking (Fig. 6c).

With the initiation of phase I, Tub4 starts accumulating at the SPB to allow the

second wave of MT nucleation observed in phase II. When phase II MTs elongate, they are

concurrently stabilized along pre-existing phase I MTs (Fig. 6d). This step relies on the

kinesin-5/Cin8 as Q-nMT bundles assembled in *cin8Δ* cells are thinner than WT Q-nMT

bundles (Fig. 4C and D). Intriguingly, *in vitro,* the monomeric form of the vertebrate kinesin-5

Eg5 promotes MT nucleation and stabilizes lateral tubulin-tubulin contacts (Chen et al 2019).

We thus assume that in the absence of Cin8, either nucleation of phase II MTs cannot occur,

or phase II MTs can elongate, but cannot be cross-linked and stabilized to phase I MT while

they grow, and as such rapidly vanish. An absence of bundle thickening in phase II is also

observed in the "*Tub1-only*" mutant *i.e.* in the absence of Tub3. Tubulin isoforms or tubulin

PTM can allow the recruitment of specific kinesins and thereby modify MT properties, see

for example (Sirajuddin et al., 2014; Peris et al., 2009; Dunn et al., 2008). May Tub3 be

important for Cin8 recruitment or function during phase II?

Then, MTs elongate, but their distal parts (>1 μm) are not yet stable (Fig. 1A). The

full-length Q-nMT bundle stabilization is reached about 2 days after glucose exhaustion. This

step depends on the kinesin-5/Kip1 (Fig. 4 G-H and Sup. Fig. 4E) that is essential to cross-link

and stabilize elongating MTs during phase III (Fig. 6e). Accordingly, we observed a Kip1

enrichment at the Q-nMT bundle +ends (Fig. 4F). Thus, in agreement with their ability to

form homo-tetramers able to cross-link (Acar et al., 2013; Kapitein et al., 2005; Scholey et

al., 2014; Weinger et al., 2011) and stabilize parallel MTs (Kapitein et al., 2005; Shimamoto

et al., 2015; Yukawa et al., 2020), the two yeast kinesin 5 are essential for Q-nMT bundle

formation. Yet, in quiescence, just as in mitosis, Kip1 and Cin8 have clearly non-equivalent

functions (Roostalu et al., 2011; Shapira and Gheber, 2016).

So far, our results indicate that the Q-nMT bundle formation mechanism is different

from the one at work during mitotic spindle assembly. Similarly, we show that Q-nMT bundle

disassembly relies on a mechanism that does not involves the same pathway than mitotic

spindle dismantlement. Indeed, Q-nMT bundle disassembly involves Kip3 (Fig. 5C-D) but is

independent of the anaphase-promoting complex and Aurora B (Woodruff et al., 2010).

Interestingly, the longest MTs start depolymerizing from their +ends first. Then, when they

reach the +ends of shorter MTs, they embark them on depolymerization (Sup. Fig. 5A). This

cooperative behavior has been observed *in vitro* within parallel MT bundles (Laan et al.,

2008) and our data indicate that such a comportment can exist *in vivo*. In telophase, the CPC

localizes to the end of the two half-spindles in order to participate in mitotic spindle

disassembly (Ibarlucea-Benitez et al., 2018). Intriguingly, in quiescence, CPC is poised at the

Q-nMT bundle + end (Fig. 3C). May this CPC localization facilitate Q-nMT bundle rapid

disassembly once environmental conditions become favorable, thus ensuring quiescence

exit efficiency?

Finally, in the present study, we show that the Q-nMT bundle is required for WT cells

survival in quiescence. While we do not yet know why this structure is important to face

chronological age, it is clear that the presence of Q-nMT bundle strongly alters the nuclear

organization (Laporte et al., 2013; Laporte and Sagot, 2014; Laporte et al., 2016). As

chromatin organization influences gene expression, one hypothesis could be that the

presence of Q-nMT bundle is required for expression of genes required for cell survival in

quiescence. Another attractive hypothesis could be that the Q-nMT bundle is the yeast

analog of the primary cilium of mammalian cells. In fact, these two structures formed upon

proliferation cessation, they are both composed of highly stable parallel MTs, their

formation involve MT motors, and they are both template from the centriole/SPB. More

importantly, we show here that the Q-nMT disassembly is needed to authorize nascent SPB

separation upon quiescence exit (Fig. 5). Thus, the Q-nMT bundle disassembly may controls

reentry into the proliferation cycle, just as the primary cilium does in ciliated mammalian

cells (Goto et al., 2017; Kim and Tsiokas, 2011).

Materiel and Methods

Yeast strains, plasmids and growth conditions

All the strains used in this study are isogenic to BY4741 (*mat a, leu2Δ0, his3Δ0, ura3Δ0, met15Δ0*) or BY4742 (*mat alpha, leu2Δ0, his3Δ0, ura3Δ0, lys2Δ0),* available from GE Healthcare Dharmacon Inc. (UK), except in Fig. 2, in which S288c strains were used (Nsamba et al., 2021). BY strains carrying GFP fusions were obtained from ThermoFisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA). Integrative plasmid p*Tub1-mTurquoise2-Tub1*, p*Tub1-wasabi-Tub1*, p*Tub1-mRUBY2-Tub1*, p*Tub1-mEOS2-Tub1* were a generous gift of Wei-Lih Lee (Markus et al., 2015). The strain expressing SPC42-mRFP1 is a generous gift from E. O'Shea (Huh et al., 2003). The strain expressing TUB4-mTQZ is generous gift of S. Jaspersen (Burns et al., 2015). Three copies of eGFP in tandem were integrated at the 3' end of *DAD2*, *TUB3* or *KAR3* endogenous loci respectively. Plasmids for expressing Nup2-RFP (p3695) or Bim1-3xGFP (p4587) from the endogenous locus were described in (Laporte et al., 2013).

For Fig. 1F, *pHIS3:mTurquoise2-Tub1+3'UTR::LEU2* was integrated at *TUB1* locus, then a pRS303-*ADH2p-mRuby2-Tub1* was integrated at the *HIS3* locus. To generate this plasmid, the *ADH2* promoter was amplified from yeast genomic DNA flanked with NotI and SpeI restrictions sites and inserted in pRS303. The mRuby2-Tub1+3'UTR, including the 116-nucleotide intron and 618 nucleotides downstream the stop codon was cloned between SpeI/SalI sites.

Yeast cells were grown in liquid YPDA medium at 30 °C in flasks as described previously in (Sagot et al., 2006) except for experiments using thermosensitive strains, where cells were first grown at 25 °C then shifted at 37 °C for indicated time before imaging.

Experiment in Sup. Fig. 1I was performed as described in (Orij et al., 2009, Peters et al., 2013). In brief, proliferating cells were transfered at an OD_{600nm} of 0.5 in Hepes buffer (25

mM Hepes, pH 7.4, 200 mM KCl, 1 mM CaCl$_2$, and 2% dextrose) buffered either at pH 4 or

7.5, in the presence of 100 μM CCCP (Sigma-Aldrich). After 150 min 30 °C shaking, cells were

imaged (for mTQZ-Tub1) or fixed and stained using Alexa Fluor 568–phalloidin (Invitrogen) as

described (Sagot et al., 2006).

For live cell imaging, 2 μL of the cell culture were spotted onto a glass slide and immediately

imaged at room temperature.

For quiescence exit, cells were then incubated 2-3 min in liquid YPD and a 2 μL were spread

onto a 2 % agarose microscope pad containing YPD. Individual cells were imaged every hour,

up to 6 or 12 h at 21°C. For quiescence exit in presence of cycloheximide (Fig. 5A), cells were

pre-incubated 30 min in the presence of the drug prior quiescence exit. Cycloheximide was

used at 180 μM (Sigma-Aldrich), Nocodazole was used at 30 μg/mL (7.5 μM) (Sigma-Aldrich).

Fluorescence Microscopy

Cells were observed on a fully-automated Zeiss 200M inverted microscope (Carl Zeiss,

Thornwood, NY, USA) equipped with an MS-2000 stage (Applied Scientific Instrumentation,

Eugene, OR, USA), a Lambda LS 300 Watt xenon light source (Sutter, Novato, CA, USA), a

100X 1.4NA Plan-Apochromat objective, and a 5 position filter turret. For RFP imaging we

used a Cy3 filter (Ex: HQ535/50 nm – Em: HQ610/75 nm – BS: Q565 nm lp). For GFP imaging,

we used a FITC filter (excitation, HQ487/25 nm; emission, HQ535/40 nm; beam splitter,

Q505 nm lp). For mTurquoise imaging we used a DAPI filter (Ex: 360/40 nm – Em: 460/50

nm– BS: 400 nm). All the filters are from Chroma Technology Corp. Images were acquired

using a CoolSnap HQ camera (Roper Scientific, Tucson, AZ, USA). The microscope, camera,

and shutters (Uniblitz, Rochester, NY, USA) were controlled by SlideBook software 5. 0.

(Intelligent Imaging Innovations, Denver, CO, USA).

For PALM (Fig. 4E) a Nikon Ti-Eclipse equipped with iLas2 TIRF arm, laser diodes (405, 488,

532, 561, 642 nm), a 100x 1.49 oil (TIRF) objective connected to a EMCCD Camera

Photometrics Evolve was used.

Immunofluorescence was done as in (Laporte et al. 2015), using AlexaFluor Phalloidin

(Invitrogen).

For expansion microscopy (Sup Fig. 2A), spheroplasts were obtained as described in (Laporte

et al., 2016). After washes in 10 mg/mL NaBH4 in PEMS for 10 min, spheroplasts were

seeded on 12 mm round poly-L-lysine coated coverslips, washed twice for 30 min in 100 µL

PEM-BAL (PEM + 1% BSA) and incubated with the primary antibodies (anti-GFP from mouse;

Roche, ref. 11814460001, 1/50; anti-alpha-tubulin from rat; YOL1/34, Abcam, ref. Ab6161,

1/100) for 1 hour at 37°C. Cells were then washed three times in PEM-BAL and incubated

with the secondary antibodies (Goat anti-mouse AlexaFluor®488 1/200 and Donkey anti-rat

AlexaFluor®555; A11029 and A21434 respectively, ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA)

for 45 min at 37 °C. Cells were then washed three times with PBS. Cells were processed for

Expansion Microscopy as previously described in (Bahri et al., 2021). Spheroplasts were

incubated for 10 min in 0.25 % GA in PBS, washed in PBS three times for 5 min, and

processed for gelation. A drop of 100 µL of ExM MS (8.625% (wt/wt) SA, 2.5% (wt/wt) AA,

0.15 % (wt/wt) BIS, 2 M NaCl in 1× PBS) was placed on the chilled Parafilm, and coverslips

were put on the drop with cells facing the solution and incubated for 3 min. Then the

coverslips were transferred to a 35 µL of ExM MS supplemented with 0.2 % APS and 0.2 %

TEMED, with the initiator (APS) added last. Gelation proceeded for 3 min on ice, and samples

were incubated at 37 °C in a humidified chamber in the dark for 1 h. Then coverslips with

attached gels were transferred into a six-well plate for incubation in 2 mL of digestion buffer

(1× TAE buffer, 0.5% Triton X-100, 0.8 M guanidine hydrochloride, pH ~8.3) supplemented

with DAPI (1 µg/mL) for 10-15 min at 37 °C, until the gels detached. Fresh proteinase K at 8

units/mL was then added and samples incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. Finally, gels were

removed and placed in 10mL petri dishes filled with ddH2O for expansion. Water was

exchanged at least twice every 30 min, and incubated in ddH2O overnight at RT. Gels

expanded between 4× and 4.2× according to SA purity. Expanded cells were imaged with a

UPlanS Apo 100×/1.4 oil immersion objective in an Olympus IX81 microscope (Olympus,

Tokyo, Japan). For Structured illumination microscopy (SIM, Fig. 7D), a ZEISS Lattice

Lightsheet 7 was used.

Laser ablation (Fig. 3I) was performed at room temperature with a 100X oil Plan-Apochromat

objective lens (NA 1.4) and an Axio-Observed.Z1 microscope (Carl Zeiss) equipped with a

spinning disk confocal (Yokogawa), an EMCCD Evolve camera (Photometrics and Roper

Scientific) and 491 nm (100 mW; Cobolt calypso) and 561 nm (100 mW; Cobolt Jive) lasers.

Images were acquired with Metamorph software (Roper Scientific). Every 5 to 20 s, a Z-series

of 0.4 µm steps were acquired. A 355 nm microchip laser (Teem Photonics) with a 21 kHz

repetition rate, 0.8 µJ energy/pulse, 2 kW of peak power and 400 ps pulse width, powered

with an iLas2 PULSE system (Roper Scientific) was used between 10 to 40 % power with one

pulse of a spot length of 100 points. Breakage was considered as successful if a non-

alignment between the two remaining Q-n MT bundle fragments was observed.

Z-stacks were deconvolved using the Deconvolution Lab plugin (Fig. 1D; Fig. 3C,E,F Fig. 4A,F).

In figures 1F, 4A, B, G, supplemental figure 1H and 3B a faint and fuzzy fluorescence signal is

detected in some cell cytoplasm using the GFP filter set. This signal is not GFP but rather due

to a non-specific yellow background fluorescence.

Image analysis

Distribution and associated statistics were performed using GraphPad Prism 5 (GraphPad

Software, Inc. La Jolla, USA). Unless specified, histograms and scatter dot plots show the

mean and the error bars indicate SD. MT length was measured on MAX-projected image

using imageJ.

For MT fluorescence intensity measurement, a line scan (i1) of 4 pixel width containing both

FP signal and background was drawn along MTs on SUM projection image (3-4 Z-plans) using

ImageJ. A line of 8 pixels width (at the same location) was drawn in order to calculate the

intensity of the surrounding background (i2). The real intensity (ir) was calculated as follow:

int=(i1-((i2x8)-(i1x4))/4). Similar approach was conducted to measure Tub4 fluorescence

intensity (Fig. 1E) *i.e.* (i1) and (i2) were two boxes, the second including the first one.

Intensity was calculated as follow: $int=[i1-([(i2 x i2_{surface})-(i1 x i1_{surface})]/(i2_{surface}-$

$i1_{surface}))*i1_{surface}]$. For morphometric Q-nMT bundle property distribution (Fig. 1C and 4B)the

mean fluorescence intensity was measured in each individual cell, in a finite area localized

adjacent to the SPB (0,4 μm – 3-4 Z stack sum projected) as an estimate of Q-nMT bundle

width and plotted as a function of the according measured bundle length.

For Nuf2 fluorescence intensity measurement at SPB (Sup. Fig. 1D), GFP and RFP line scan

measurements were done on a 3-4 Z-plans sum projection. The "SPB localization zone" was

defined as the length ending at the second pixel after the brightest RFP signal of Spc42-RFP.

The remaining Q-nMT bundle zone was defined as the "+end zone". The total Nuf2-GFP

signal detected along the Q-nMT bundle was set to 100 % (sum projection imaged) allowing

to determine the percentage of the signal measured at "SPB localization zone" and at "+end

zone"

Normalized Q-nMT bundle length (Fig. 3C) was done after line scan intensity measurement.

mTQZ-Tub1 intensities slopes were first aligned on their inflexion point. To compare Q-nMT

bundle with different lengths, we first sorted Q-nMT bundle <1.8 µm. After an artificial

isotropic expansion, we fit all MT structures to length order. Then, corresponding mean

intensity of Q-nMT bundle (mTZQ-Tub1) and GFP signal were calculated.

To measure the Q-nMT bundle depolymerization (Fig. 5A and E), individual Q-nMT bundle

length were measured over time. The first measurement was set at 100 % of the length, and

the following percentages calculated accordingly. A fluorescence drop above or equal to 25

% defines the inflexion point of the slope, and was used to align the different length

measurements. The FWHM (Full Width at Half Maximum) was calculated by measuring

fluorescence intensity of a line crossing perpendicularly a Q-nMT bundle, from a sum

projection. After fitting intensity level with Gaussian distribution and obtained the standard

deviation (σ) value, FWHM was calculated using the equation $2\sqrt{(2\ln2)}\times\sigma$. In Fig. 5B, FWHM

was measured at 0.5 µm of the SPB.

Western blots

Western blots were done as described in (Sagot et al., 2006) using anti-GFP antibodies

(Roche); anti-Tat1 antibodies (a generous gift from J-P. Javerzat) and antibody against the

budding yeast Act1 or Sac6, generous gifts from B. Goode.

Phenotypical analysis of cells without Q-nMT bundle

WT strains were grown to glucose exhaustion (OD ~6.5), washout with "old YPDA" and

pulsed with either DMSO or Nocodazole (30µg/mL) for 24 h. Cells were then washed twice in

"old YPDA" before being incubated in the same medium. Dead cell measurement was done

using methylene blue staining. The capacity of cells to exit quiescence was scored after cells

micro-manipulation (N=4, n>100) as described in (Laporte et al., 2011).

Supplemental data

Supplementary Figure 1 further described the 3 steps of Q-nMT bundle formation. It shows the impact of physico-chemical cell properties on MT stabilization and demonstrate that Q-nMT bundle is required for both cell viability in quiescence and quiescence exit fitness.

Supplementary Figure 2 describes the impact of the alpha tubulin level on Q-nMT bundle assembly.

Supplementary Figure 3 demonstrates that kinetochore-MT interactions are not required for Q-nMT bundle maintenance and that mutants affected for kinetochore-kinetochore interactions have a reduced viability in quiescence.

Supplementary Figure 4 impact of various yeast kinesin deletion on Q-nMT bundle morphometric parameters.

Supplementary Figure 5 Q-nMT bundle disassembly in mutants affected for mitotic spindle dismantlement.

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Author Contributions

D. Laporte did all the experiments described in this manuscript, except Fig. 1F, 1H, Fig. 5 G-H and Sup. Fig. 5G to I that were performed by A. Massoni-Laporte, together with all image deconvolution, and Fig. 4E and Sup. Fig. 2A and 3A that were done by J. Dompierre. A. Royou helped for pulse-laser experiments of Fig. 3I and Sup Fig. 3H-I. C. Lefranc did molecular biology and western blots. D. Mauboules performed yeast genetic for Fig. 2. M. L. Gupta Jr and E. T. Nsamba created the Tub1-only mutant (Fig. 2). L. Gal and M. Schuldiner performed high throughput deletion screen. IS and DL designed and supervised the experiments. IS and DL wrote the manuscript.

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Abraviations

Abbreviations

MT: microtubule

SPB: spindle pole body

GTP: guanosine triphosphate

MTOC: microtubule organizing centers

ɣ-TuC: ɣ-tubulin complex

MAPs: microtubule associated proteins

Q-nMT bundle: quiescence specific nuclear microtubule bundle

CPC : chromosome passenger complex

Figure legends

Figure 1: The formation of the Q-nMT bundle is a three-step process.

(A) Nuclear MT length in WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1, before (grey) or after a 15 min Noc treatment (blue) upon entry into quiescence.

(B) MT fluorescence intensity was used as a proxy of Q-nMT bundle width in WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1; thin line: intensity of an individual cell; bold line: mean intensity; n>60 for each phase. Mean intensity measurement for half pre-anaphase mitotic spindles (purple) phase I (green), phase II (orange) or phase III (red) Q-nMT bundle. To help comparison, in each graph, the dash line indicate the mean intensity in half pre-anaphase mitotic spindle. Representative cells are shown (images in pseudo-colors).

(C) Morphometric Q-nMT bundle property distribution (length and width) in each phase before and after a 15 min Noc treatment in WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1.

(D) Single WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and Nuf2-GFP (green) in phase II (23h) or phase III (50h) were deposited on an agarose pad containing Noc and imaged. Blue arrowheads: SPB; white arrows: Nuf2-GFP clusters; time is in min after pad deposition.

(E) Tub4-mTQZ fluorescence intensity measured at the SPB upon entry into quiescence. Representative cells are shown (images in pseudo-colors). Bar is 1μm

(F) WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (red) under the *TUB1* promoter and mRuby-Tub1 (green) under the *ADH2* promoter. Representative cells at the indicated time after glucose exhaustion and the associated line-scans are show. The graph shows the percentage of cells harboring both mTQZ and mRuby fluorescence along the Q-nMT bundle. Each circle is the percentage obtained for an independent cell culture, n>200).

(G) Schematic of the Q-nMT bundle formation. During phase I, stable MTs (green) elongate from the SPB (in grey). During phase II, new MTs (orange) elongated from the SPB and are stabilized along the phase I MTs, but stay dynamic when longer than phase I MTs. In the meantime, Tub4 (blue) increases at the SPB (grey). After phase III, all MTs are stable (red).

(H) Upon glucose exhaustion, WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (green) and Nuf2-GFP (red) were pulsed treated with Noc (blue) or DMSO (grey) for 24 h. Noc or DMSO were then chased using carbon exhausted medium and cells were imaged. Representative images of cells 2 d after the chase are shown. Right panel: same experiment done in WT prototroph cells and representative images of cells 4 d after the chase are shown. Tubulin (green) was detected by immunofluorescence, actin (red) by phalloidin and DNA (blue) with DAPI. The mean Q-nMT bundle length (±SD) in the population is indicated.

In A, C, E an H, each circle corresponds to a single cell. In A, E, F and H mean and SD are shown, and unpaired T-test p-values are indicated; ***: p-value<10^{-5}. In A, D, F and H bar is 2μm.

Figure 2: Q-nMT bundle formation is influenced by the alpha-tubulin amount and isoform

(A) WT cell (4 d) expressing either Tub3-3GFP (green) and mTQZ-Tub1 (red, top panel) or Tub3-RFP (red) and mWasabi-Tub1 (green, bottom panel). Blue arrowheads point to SPB.

(B) Nuclear MT length in WT and *tub3Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1, 36 h (phase II, yellow) and 90 h (phase III, red) after glucose exhaustion, treated 15 min (blue) or not (grey) with Noc. Representative images are shown on the right.

(C) Nuclear MT length in WT and *Tub1-only* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1, 36 h (phase II, yellow) and 90 h (phase III, red) after glucose exhaustion, treated 15 min or not with Noc. Representative images are shown on top.

(D) Fluorescence intensity along the Q-nMT bundle in WT (grey) and *Tub1-only* (blue) cells

expressing mTQZ-Tub1 grown for 10 h (phase I), 36 h (phase II), and 90 h (phase III). Thin

lines indicate individual cells fluorescence intensity and bold lines, the mean intensity.

Dashed lines indicate the maximal mean fluorescence intensity measured in phase I.

In B and C, each circle corresponds to a single cell. MT mean length, SD, and unpaired T-test

p-value are indicated. In all panels, bar is 2μm.

Figure 3: Kinetochore-kinetochore interactions are required for Q-nMT bundle formation.

(A) Nuclear MT length distribution in WT (grey) and *ndc80-1* (violet) cells expressing mTQZ-

Tub1 (green) and Nuf2-GFP (red), shifted to 37 °C upon glucose exhaustion for the indicated

time and imaged after a 20 min Noc treatment. Representative cells shifted for 12 h at 37°C

are shown.

(B) WT (grey) and *ipl1-1* cells (pink) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 were shifted upon glucose

exhaustion to 37 °C for 48 h, and imaged after a 20 min Noc treatment. Representative cells

are shown.

(C) WT cells (2 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and Bir1-GFP or Sli15-GFP (green) were

imaged. Graphs show Bir1-GFP or Sli15-GFP fluorescence intensity along normalized Q-nMT

bundles (plain and dash lines: mean and SD respectively).

(D) Nuclear MT length distribution in cells of the indicated genotype (4 d) expressing mTQZ-

Tub1 treated or not with Noc. Representative cells are shown.

(E) WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and Slk19-GFP (green) 4 h after glucose exhaustion.

Blue arrowhead: SPB.

(F) Nuclear MT length distribution in cells of the indicated genotype (4 d) expressing mTQZ-

Tub1 (green) and Nuf2-GFP (red) were imaged before or after Noc treatment.

Representative cells are shown. White arrowheads point to Nuf2 dots.

(G) Cells of the indicated genotype (4 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (green) and Nup2-RFP (red).

(H) Nuclear MT length distribution in cells of the indicated genotype (4 d) expressing mTQZ-

Tub1 treated or not with Noc. Representative cells are shown.

(I) Length variation of nuclear MT bundle fragments after laser ablation (pink dash line) in

cells expressing mRuby-TUB1 (red) and Dad2-GFP (green). Time is in min. Blue arrowhead:

SPB, white arrowhead: cMT.

In A, B, D, F, and H, each circle corresponds to a single cell. Mean, SD, and unpaired T-test p-

values are indicated (*: p-value <0.05, and ***: p-value <10^{-6}). Bar is 2 µm except in (I) where

it is 1 µm.

Figure 4: Each phase of Q-nMT formation requires a specific kinesin.

(A) Images and corresponding line scans of WT cells (2 d) expressing Kar3-3GFP (green) and

mTQZ-Tub1 (red).

(B) Morphometric Q-nMT bundle properties distribution in 4 d WT (grey), *kar3Δ* (red), *vik1Δ*

(blue), *cik1Δ* cells (green) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 after Noc treatment. Blue crosses are SD.

Each circle corresponds to an individual Q-nMT bundle. Representative cells are shown.

(C) Nuclear MT length distribution in WT and *cin8Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 treated

(dashed boxes) or not (plain boxes) with Noc.

(D) Fluorescence intensity along Q-nMT bundle in WT and *cin8Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1

7 h and 24 h after glucose exhaustion. Representative cells are shown.

(E) WT and *cin8Δ* cells expressing mEOS3.2-Tub1 were imaged using PALM (images are in pseudo-colors). Full width at half maximum (FWHM) was measured at the indicated distance from the SPB. Each line in the bottom graph corresponds to a single cell. P-value between WT and *cin8Δ* are indicated (unpaired T-test).

(F) WT cells (3 d) expressing Kip1-GFP (green) and mTQZ-Tub1 (red). Graphs show fluorescence intensity along normalized Q-nMT bundles (plain and dash lines: mean and SD respectively).

(G-H) Representative images and nuclear MT length distribution in WT, *kip1Δ* and *kip3Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 treated (dashed boxes) or not (plain boxes) with Noc.

In C and H, *: p-value <0.05, and ***: p-value <10^{-6} (unpaired T-test). Means and SD are indicated. In A, B, D, E, F and G, bar is 2 μm.

Figure 5: Q-nMT bundle disassembly always occurs before SPB separation upon quiescence exit.

(A) WT cells expressing Spc42-RFP (red) and Nuf2-GFP (green) (5 d) were re-fed on an YPDA microscope pad. Individual Q-nMT bundles were measured in cells treated with CHX (blue, Stu2-GFP) or with DMSO alone (grey, Nuf2-GFP). Each line corresponds to an individual cell. For each cell, time was set to zero at the onset of MT bundle depolymerization (black dashed line).

(B) Q-nMT bundle length (green) and fluorescence intensity at full width half maximum (FWHM - orange) were measured upon quiescence exit in WT cells (5 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1. Representative example of shirking Q-nMT bundle is shown on the left.

(**C**) Cells of the indicated genotype expressing mTQZ-Tub1 were grown for 4 d, and re-fed. Q-nMT bundle length was measured at the indicated time points, 15 min after a Noc treatment.

(**D**) Western blot (GFP antibodies) on total protein extracts from WT cells expressing Kip3-GFP grown for the indicated time. Sac6 was used as a loading control (Sac6 antibodies).

(**E**) WT and *kip3Δ* cells (5 d) expressing Nuf2-GFP were re-fed on an YPDA microscope pad. Each line corresponds to an individual cell. For each cell, time was set to zero at the onset of SPB separation.

(**F**) Representative images of *kip3Δ* cells expressing Nuf2-GFP upon quiescence exit. White arrowheads: Q-nMT bundle extremities.

(**G**) Percentage of cells expressing Spc42-mRFP1 with separated SPB as a function of time upon quiescence exit.

(**H**) WT and *kip3Δshe1Δ* cells (6 d) expressing Spc42-mRFP1 (red) and mTQZ-Tub1 (green) were re-fed on a YPDA microscope pad. Percentage of cells with a single or a duplicated SPB in the presence or absence of Q-nMT bundle were scored. Representative cells are shown. Right bottom panel: actin (phalloidin staining, red) in *kip3Δ she1Δ* cells (6 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (green) before and 1 h after quiescence exit.

In F and H, blue arrowheads: SPB. In all panels, bar is 2 μm.

Figure 6: Model for Q-nMT bundle assembly

MT-kinetochore interaction and Ilp1 (Aurora B) are required for the onset of phase I. Kar3 (kinesin-14) and its regulator Cik1 are essential to initiate Q-nMT bundle elongation. Although deletion of *BIM1* (EB1) has no effect, it becomes critical for phase I if kinetochore-

MT interactions are already destabilized by the absence of Chromosome Passenger Complex

components. Kinetochore clustering by the monopolin complex and Slk19 is needed to

maintain MT bundling while phase I MTs elongate. During phase I, Tub4 (γ-Tubulin)

accumulates at the SPB. In phase II, a second wave of MT nucleation and elongation occur.

Phase II MTs are concurrently stabilized along pre-existing phase I MTs, in a Cin8 (kinesin-5)-

dependent manner. Phase I and phase II MTs + end (>1 μm) remain dynamic until the full

length Q-nMT bundle stabilization is reached via the action of Kip1 (kinesin-5), about 2 days

after glucose exhaustion.

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Supplementary Figure legends

Supplementary Figure 1

(A) Fluorescence intensity along MT structures in WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1. Pink, green and orange lines display respectively the half-mitotic spindle, phase I and phase II Q-nMT bundles. Individual cell (thin line) and mean (bold line) fluorescence intensities are shown, and the dash line indicate the according maximum fluorescence mean intensity.

(B) Individual Q-nMT bundle full width measured at half-maximum in WT cells (4 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 before or after 1 h after Noc treatment. A paired T-test was use to compare the two conditions.

(C) Nuclear MT length distribution in WT haploid (mat a and mat α) or diploid (mat a/mat α) cells expressing mTQZ-TUB1. Each circle is an individual cell.

(D) Single WT cells expressing Nuf2-GFP (green) and Spc42-RFP (red) upon entry into quiescence. The percentages indicate the relative amount of Nuf2-GFP detected at the SBP.

(E) Tub4-mTQZ fluorescence intensity in WT cells of the W303 background. Unpaired T-test p-values are indicated; ***: p-value$<10^{-5}$.

(F) Fluorescence intensities in WT cells (4 d) expressing Tub4-mTQZ and mRuby-Tub1. The Tub4-mTQZ signal at the SBP is plotted in function of the mRuby signal along the Q-nMT bundle.

(G) Others examples of cells expressing pTUB1-mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and pADH2-mRuby-Tub1 (green) imaged in phase II.

(H) WT cells expressing mRuby-Tub1 (4 d) can display both dynamic cMTs (red arrowhead) and a Q-nMT bundle (time is in min).

(I) An artificial fluid phase to solid-like transition in proliferating cells does not induce MT stabilization. Proliferating WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (green) and Spc42-RFP (red) with fluid (pH=7.5) or solid like (pH=4) cytoplasm/nucleoplasm (see materials and method) were incubated 15 min with Noc (left) or stained with phalloidin (right). Indicated phenotypes were quantified (left and right graphs, N=2, n>200).

(J) Cells can assemble dynamic cMTs (red arrowhead) in quiescence. MTs were followed in individual 2-day-old WT cells after a 15 min Noc pulse-chased (time is in min). Red arrowhead: cytoplasmic MT.

(K) Left two graphs: WT cell viability after a pulse with Noc (blue circles) or DMSO (white triangles) for 24 h upon glucose exhaustion, then a chase using carbon exhausted medium. Each circle/triangle is an independent cell culture, n>200. Black line is the mean value of Noc and DMSO treated cells. Time is in days after the initial 24 h pulse. Right graph and images: same as previously, but 8 days after the pulse, cells were micro-separated and allowed to give rise to a colony on a YPDA plate. Each measure is the % obtained for an independent cell culture (n>100). Pictures of representative plates after 3 d of growth at 30°C are shown. In D and G, bar is 1 μm; in H, I and J, bar is 2 μm. In D and J, blue arrowhead points to the SBP.

Supplementary Figure 2

(A) Expansion microscopy image of WT cell (4 d) expressing Tub3-3GFP and immuno-stained with GFP (green) and α-tubulin (red) YOL1/2 antibodies.

(B) Western blot using α-tubulin YOL1/2 antibody on total protein extracts from the indicated cells grown for 4 d. Actin is the loading reference. Numbers indicate the tubulin/actin ratio (mean, N=8).

(C) Nuclear MT length distribution in *yke2Δ*, *pac10Δ* or *gim3Δ* cells (4 d) and in corresponding WT cells expressing Nuf2-GFP (dark grey bars) or Bim1-3GFP (light grey bars). Right panel: western blot using an anti-α-tubulin antibody on total protein extracts from cells of the indicated genotype (4 d). Actin is a loading reference. The tubulin/actin ratio is indicated (N=4).

(D) MT length distribution in *pac2Δ*, *cin2Δ* or *cin4Δ* cells (4 d). Same legend as (C).

In all panels, bar is 2 μm.

Supplementary Figure 3

(A) Upper panel: WT cell (4 d) expressing Dad2-GFP and immuno-stained with GFP (green) and α-tubulin (red) YOL1/2 antibodies imaged using expansion microscopy. Blue is DAPI. Lower panel: WT cell (4 d) expressing Dad2-GFP (green) and mRuby-Tub1 (red), imaged using SIM. Bar: 1 μm.

(B-C) Inactivation of Ndc80 (B) or Ipl1 (C) in quiescent cells does not affect Q-nMT bundle. Nuclear MT length in cells of the indicated genotypes, grown for 3 d at 25 °C, shifted either 24 h (*ndc80-1*) or 48 h (*ipl1-1*) to 37 °C and treated 15 min or not with Noc. Each circle is an individual cell, representative images are shown. Unpaired T-test p-values are indicated. Mean and SD are indicated.

(D) Distribution of Bim1-3GFP intensity in function of mTQZ-TUB1 intensity in individual Q-nMT bundles (green: phase I – 7 h after glucose exhaustion, orange: phase II – 26 h after glucose exhaustion and red: phase III – 50h after glucose exhaustion). Each circle is an individual Q-nMT bundle.

(E) Nuclear MT length in *bim1Δ, sli15Δ, sli15Δ bim1Δ* cells (5 d) expressing mTQZ-Tub1 treated or not with Noc. Each circle is an individual cell. Mean and SD are indicated.

(F) Percentage of cells of the indicated background displaying a MT star-like array. Each circle represents the % obtained for an independent culture (n>200). Mean and SD are indicated.

(G) Viability after the indicated time in quiescence (left graph), capacity to form colony after 20 days in quiescence (CFU, middle panel) or capacity to form a colony after single cell micro-manipulation after 12 days in quiescence (right graph). Pictures of representative plates 3 d after cell micro-manipulation are shown.

(H) WT cells (6 d) expressing mRuby-Tub1 (red) and Nuf2-GFP (green) were transferred onto an agarose pad. Q-nMT bundles were cut using a pulsed laser (pink dashed line). Time is in min

(I) Proliferating cells expressing mRuby-Tub1 (red) and Dad2-GFP (green) were transferred onto an agarose pad. Anaphase spindles were cut and the behavior of the released fragments was followed. White arrowheads point to dynamic cMTs. Time is in min. in A and H, blue arrowhead: SPB. Bar: 2 μm. For B, C, E-F.

Supplementary Figure 4

(A) Morphometric Q-nMT bundle properties distribution in WT (grey) and *kar3Δ* cells (red) 90 h after glucose exhaustion (control for Fig. 4B).

(B) WT cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and Cin8-GFP (green) were imaged at the indicated times after glucose exhaustion. Cells expressing only mTQZ-Tub1 (left panel) testify for the absence of fluorescence leak from the mTQZ signal into the GFP channel. Bar is 2μm.

(C) Fluorescence intensity along Q-nMT bundles in WT (black) and *cin8Δ* cells expressing

mTQZ-Tub1, treated (green) or not (red) with Noc. Each line is an individual cell, the bold

lines are the mean.

(D) Morphometric Q-nMT bundle properties distribution in WT (grey) and *cin8Δ* (green) cells

expressing mTQZ-Tub1. Each circle is an individual cell.

(E) Fluorescence intensity along Q-nMT bundles in WT (grey), *kip1Δ* (red), *bim1Δ* (green),

and *kip1Δ bim1Δ* (blue) cells (4 d). Each line is an individual cell, the bold lines are the mean.

(F) Nuclear MT length distribution in *kip2Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-Tub1, treated (dashed box,

blue dots) or not (plain boxes, black dots) with Noc. For a comparison, the mean WT length

is indicated as dashed line. Unpaired T-test p-values are indicated.

(G) Q-nMT bundle length distribution in cells of the indicated genotype (4 d), treated (grey)

or not (light blue) with Noc.

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Supplementary Figure 5

(A) Individual quiescence exit of two representative 5-day-old cells (left and right) expressing

mTQZ-Tub1 (red) and Nuf2-GFP (green). Blue arrowhead: SBP; white arrows Nuf2 cluster.

Time is in min.

(B). Q-nMT bundle disassembly in WT (grey) and in *kip3Δ* (blue). The time was set to zero at

the onset MT depolymerisation. WT cells expressing Spc42-RFP and Stu2-GFP were grown 5

d, then re-fed on YPDA pads and imaged every 20 min

(C-D) Q-nMT bundle length in cells of the indicated genotype expressing mTQZ-Tub1, grown

for 4 d and imaged at the indicated time after refeeding. For the rapamycin experiment, WT

cells were pre-incubated 1 h with rapamycin (1 µg/mL), and then re-fed in presence of the

drug. For thermos-sensitive strains (D), cells were grown 4 d at 25 °C, shifted 1 h at 37 °C,

and then transferred to new medium at 37 °C to trigger quiescence exit. Measurements

were done after a 15 min Noc treatment. Each circle is an individual cell.

(E-F) WT and cells of the indicated genotype expressing mTQZ-Tub1 were grown for the

indicated time at 25 °C, shifted to 37 °C and re-fed. In E, measurements were done after a 15

min Noc treatment. Each circle is an individual cell.

(G) Percentage of cells with separated SPBs upon quiescence exit on YPDA agarose pad (left

panel). Right: proliferation of WT and *kip3Δshe1Δ* strains in YPDA (OD600nm as function of

time).

(H) Q-nMT bundle length distribution in WT (grey) or *kip3Δshe1Δ* (green) cells with

unseparated SPBs, 240 min after quiescence exit.

(I) Actin (red, Phalloidin-staining) in WT and *kip3Δshe1Δ* cells expressing mTQZ-TUB1 (green)

at the indicated time upon quiescence exit.

In C-F, red lines indicated mean intensity and SD. In A and I, bar is 2μm.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6