Title

Smc5/6 association with microtubules controls dynamic pericentromeric chromatin folding

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Abstract

Centromeres and pericentromeres are specialized chromatin regions whose organization is critical for proper chromosome segregation through dynamic microtubule attachment. Smc5/6, highly enriched in pericentromeres, associates with microtubules. However, whether Smc5/6 contributes to chromatin folding and dynamics in these regions remains unclear. Here, we dissect Smc5/6 function at budding yeast centromeres by constructing *smc5-2KE,* a separation-of-function mutant that reduces microtubule binding by replacing two lysines (K624 and K631) at the Smc5 hinge with glutamic acid. After demonstrating reduced microtubule binding by *smc5-2KE in vitro*, we use high temporal resolution imaging in living cells and polymer modeling to show that Smc5/6 and microtubule binding restricts chromatin dynamics along chromosome arms, thus contributing to pericentromeric chromatin folding. The *smc5-2KE* mutant shows a strong pericentromere-specific reduction in homologous recombination repair, as well as defects in mitotic spindle length, centromere clustering and cytokinesis. Overall, our results reveal that Smc5/6-microtubule association ensures robust pericentromeric chromatin folding, contributing to genome integrity in the face of mitotic forces.

Key words

Smc5/6, microtubules, pericentromeres, DNA double-strand break repair, chromatin dynamics.

Introduction

The three-dimensional architecture of the genome governs gene expression, DNA replication and repair [1]. Centromeres are specialized regions within this chromosomal architecture that serve as scaffolds for microtubule attachment via the kinetochore, a complex of around 80 proteins [2,3]. Surrounding the centromere, pericentromeric regions adopt a distinct chromatin configuration that is essential for genome stability [4]. Pericentromeric configuration and centromere/kinetochore assembly are crucial to counterbalance the mechanical forces exerted by spindle microtubules during mitosis. Yet, how pericentromeric structure is shaped to resist the forces exerted by microtubules is poorly understood [5,6]. In budding yeast, pericentromeres span around 30-50 kb [7] and are highly enriched in structural chromosome maintenance (SMC) complexes, which include cohesins, condensins and the Smc5/6 complex (Smc5/6 in short) [8–11]. Cohesins and condensins participate in the establishment of DNA loops that resist mitotic spindle forces [12]. While assembly of an Smc5/6 dimer was recently shown to contribute to chromatin loop folding[13], the folding function of Smc5/6 at pericentromeres is unknown.

Smc5/6 is composed of Smc5, Smc6 and non-SMC proteins (Nse1, Mms21 and Nse3-6) [14]. Smc5 and Smc6 consist of antiparallel coiled-coil arms that dimerize via a hinge domain at one end and are linked at the other end by their ATPase head domains. As a key player in genome stability that mediates post-translational modifications (PTMs), Smc5/6 interacts with many chromosome proteins during the course of its cellular functions [14]. One of the most intriguing interactors of the complex is the alpha/beta tubulin dimer. We previously showed *in vitro* that the hinge domain of the Smc5 protein binds the tubulin dimer exclusively in the form of microtubule polymers. The hinge domain contains three lysines (K624, K631 and K667) that interact directly with the C-terminal negatively charged tails of tubulins [15]. Two of these lysines (K624 and K631) lie in a specific C domain loop unique to Smc5/6, according to X-ray crystal structures of the *S. pombe* Smc5 hinge domain [16].

In addition to its role in maintaining telomeres and rDNA organization [17–19], Smc5/6 also participates in genome integrity by promoting the repair of damaged DNA [14,20]. Smc5/6 is recruited within ~5kb of double strand breaks (DSB) [21,22], holds the DSB ends together [23] and

facilitates homologous recombination (HR) [18,24–26], a DNA repair process that uses a
homologous sequence as a template to accurately repair DSBs [27].

Here, we examine the role that the association between Smc5/6 and microtubules plays in
pericentromeric chromatin folding. We combine mutational analysis and fluorescence
microscopy in living cells with polymer simulations to show that the association between
microtubules and Smc5/6 impacts pericentromeric chromatin folding and integrity.

Results

The *smc5-2KE* mutant leads to increased chromatin dynamics at centromeres and beyond

To investigate the impact of the association between microtubules and Smc5/6 on chromatin
folding and dynamics, we modified the electrostatic charge-dependent attraction between
the C-terminal tubulin tails of microtubules and the Smc5 hinge [15]. We mutated K624 and
K631 to negatively charged glutamic acid residues resulting in the *smc5-2KE* mutant. The
microtubule-binding capacity of the *smc5-2KE* mutant was assessed *in vitro* by comparing the
co-sedimentation of purified Smc5 and Smc5-2KE proteins with microtubules. We observed a
3-fold reduction in the binding affinity of Smc5-2KE compared to wild-type (WT) Smc5 (**Fig.
1a, Fig. S1a**). The reduced affinity of Smc5-2KE for microtubules was not due to a defect in
the mutant's interaction with other proteins in the Smc5/6 complex, as indicated by co-
immunoprecipitation (CoIP) of the Nse3 subunit with both WT Smc5 and the Smc5-2KE (**Fig.
1b**). The preservation of Smc5/6 function in the *smc5-2KE* mutant is consistent with the
absence of significant defects in cell growth, cell division or cell cycle progression in mutated
cells (**Fig. S1b-d**). Therefore, we used *smc5-2KE* as a separation-of-function mutant that is
specifically defective in microtubule binding, to explore the role of Smc5/6 association to
microtubules in chromatin dynamics *in vivo*.

We first assessed chromatin dynamics as a function of nuclear localization in different cellular
conditions in both WT and *smc5-2KE* mutant. We tracked a GFP-labelled chromatin array
(tetO-TetR-GFP) positioned at 11, 90, and 730 kb from centromere IV (CEN IV) and calculated
the mean square displacement (MSD) as previously described [28,29] (Methods). In WT cells, the
different tracked loci followed a sub-diffusive movement characterized by an anomalous

α exponent below 1.0 (between 0.59 and 0.61, **Fig. 1c, Fig. S2a**). These values of α, typical of

self-avoiding bead-spring polymer models [30], indicate that the connectivity of the

chromosome, qualitatively determining the nature of its dynamics, is independent of its

distance from the centromere. However, the sub-diffusive coefficient D, as well as MSD at 10s

(MSD_{10s}), indicated higher mobility at positions further from the CEN IV centromeric

attachment point, as previously documented (**Fig. 1c-d, Fig. S2a**) [29,31–34]. Interestingly, sub-

diffusive chromatin motion was maintained in *smc5-2KE* mutated cells with a similar α

parameter, but an increase in chromatin dynamics, characterized by an increase in D, was

observed at all loci compared to WT cells. The increase in chromatin dynamics in mutated

cells was more pronounced the closer the locus was to the centromere (**Fig. 1c-d**). MSD_{10s}

increased in the *smc5-2KE* mutant by factors of 1.36, 1.18 and 1.07 for distance 11, 90 and

730 kb from CEN IV, respectively (**Fig. S2b**). Increased chromatin mobility of the *smc5-2KE*

mutant was verified for another locus located at 90 kb from CEN V (**Fig. S2c**) and observed at

different phases of the cell cycle, including G1 and metaphase (**Fig. S3**).

Lysine residues undergo a wide range of reversible PTMs such as SUMOylation, acetylation

and ubiquitination, which can regulate protein functions, including protein-protein

interactions [35]. To determine whether lysine PTMs are involved in the Smc5 effect on

chromatin mobility, we mutated both lysines to arginine (a positively charged amino acid

unaffected by PTM). This *smc5-2KR* mutant showed chromatin mobility like WT (**Fig. S2c**).

Conversely, we show that the effects of Smc5 on chromatin mobility are due to the positive

charge of the lysines, as the *smc5-2KA* mutant, where lysines are mutated to alanine (a neutral

amino acid), increased chromatin mobility like the *smc5-2KE* mutant (**Fig. S2c**). We conclude

that it is the presence of positive charges at amino-acid positions 624 and 631 of Smc5, rather

than their potential to be modified by PTMs, that is required to promote normal chromatin

dynamics *in vivo*.

Altogether, our results support the hypothesis that lysines K624 and K631, conserved in the

C domain of Smc5 hinge, limit chromatin dynamics possibly by associating to microtubules

through their positive charge, as observed *in vitro*.

Increased chromatin dynamics of the *smc5-2KE* mutant is not linked to spontaneous DNA

damage or loss of Smc5/6

Increase in chromatin dynamics is part of the DNA Damage Response [36,37]. To determine
whether increased chromatin mobility of the *smc5-2KE* mutant results from spontaneous
DNA damage, we first monitored Rad52 foci, as a marker of DNA repair at sites of damage [38].
While treatment with the genotoxic agent Zeocin yielded a similarly high number of Rad52
foci in WT and *smc5-2KE* mutant (74% ± 6.7 and 79,5% ± 7.8 foci respectively), we observed
comparable low levels of Rad52 foci in WT and *smc5-2KE* strains in the absence of Zeocin (7%
± 1.1 and 8.9% ± 1.3 foci respectively) (**Fig. S4a**)*. We also analyzed Rad53 phosphorylation, a
checkpoint modification induced by DNA damage [39]. Rad53 phosphorylation was not detected
in *smc5-2KE* cells in the absence of Zeocin, in contrast to Zeocin-treated WT and mutant cells
(**Fig. S4b**). Finally, we investigated the phosphorylation of histone H2A (γH2A), a conserved
PTM induced by DNA damage [40]. Upon Zeocin treatment, WT and *smc5-2KE* cells displayed
increased levels of γH2A, while γH2A background levels were similar in untreated strains (**Fig.
S4c**). These observations are consistent with the lack of Rad53 phosphorylation and γH2A
observed upon Smc5/6 complex degradation [41]. Taken together these results establish that
the increased chromatin dynamics observed in the *smc5-2KE* mutant are not due to higher
levels of spontaneous DNA damage.

Our results show that the K624E and K631E mutations do not affect the stability of Smc5/6 *in
vitro* (**Fig. 1b**), but we could not exclude that a defect in the complex, undetectable *in vitro*,
could account for the increased chromatin mobility of the *smc5-2KE* mutant *in vivo*. To
address this point, we investigated chromatin mobility in cells defective for Smc5/6 by
specifically degrading Smc5 or Smc6 proteins using the auxin-inducible degron (AID) strategy.
Cells expressing tagged Smc5 or Smc6 proteins grew like WT cells in the absence of auxin but
failed to grow in the presence of 1 mM auxin (**Fig. S5a-b**). This indicates efficient degradation
of the tagged proteins and confirms that complete loss of Smc5 and Smc6 proteins is
incompatible with cell viability, in contrast to the separation-of-function phenotype of the
smc5-2KE mutant. Degradation took place 30 minutes after auxin addition, as shown by
western blot for Smc5-AID (**Fig. S5c**). Surprisingly, a reduction in chromatin dynamics in the
pericentromeric region, at 11 kb from the centromere, was observed when Smc5-AID or
Smc6-AID protein degradation was induced by 1h auxin addition (**Fig. S5d-f**). These findings
also contrast with the increase in chromatin dynamics we observed upon degradation of the
Smc1 subunit of cohesin (**Fig. S5e-f**), as previously documented [34,42]. The opposite effects of

Smc5/6 and cohesins on chromatin mobility suggest the implication of different mechanisms,

which in the case of cohesins might depend on their loop extrusion activity [43,44]. Taken

together, these results establish that Smc5/6 is required in maintaining chromatin dynamics

which is itself constrained by the possible association of Smc5 with microtubules.

The binding of microtubules to kinetochores is necessary but not sufficient to control

pericentromeric chromatin dynamics

The constraint of pericentromeric chromatin dynamics is in line with studies in budding yeast,

showing that release of centromeres from their attachment to the SPB upon microtubule

depolymerization or centromere inactivation leads to enhanced chromatin mobility [34,45–47].

We therefore first investigated chromatin mobility following microtubule depolymerization

by nocodazole in WT and in the *smc5-2KE* mutant. We exposed cells to a short treatment (30

minutes) with nocodazole (**Fig. 2a**) and analyzed chromatin dynamics at different

chromosome locations. This treatment depolymerized microtubules, as confirmed by the

absence of microtubule filaments visualized by Tub2-GFP (**Fig. 2b**) but did not block cells

cycling (**Fig. 2c**). In WT cells, chromatin mobility increased upon exposure to nocodazole at

loci far from the centromere, *i.e.* at 90 kb and 730 kb from the centromere, as previously

observed (**Fig. 2d, 2g**) [45,46]. In contrast, in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, nocodazole had no significant

effect on chromatin mobility, indicating that the lack of microtubules or the Smc5-2KE

mutation leads to a similar increase in chromosome dynamics with no cumulative effect of

the two. Close to the centromere at 11kb from CEN IV, nocodazole caused a significant

increase in chromatin dynamics, however, to a lesser extent than that observed in the *smc5-*

2KE mutant (MSD_{10s} 1.14 vs. 1.32 respectively, **Fig. 2d**). These observations support the view

that binding of microtubules to Smc5/6 limits chromatin mobility throughout the

chromosome and that in the pericentromeric region, Smc5/6 plays an additional role, possibly

affecting chromatin properties.

We next analyzed chromatin dynamics in two kinetochore thermosensitive mutants *ndc80*-1,

which impairs kinetochores-microtubules binding [48] and *ndc10*-1, which affects centromeric

chromatin binding [49]. To effectively compare these mutants to *smc5-2KE*, we first confirmed

that the chromatin behavior reported in the *smc5-2KE* mutant at 30°C is also observed at

37°C, the restrictive temperature for these mutants. Chromatin dynamics at 90 kb from CEN

V displayed a comparable increase between *ndc80-1* and *smc5-2KE* single mutants at 37°C (**Fig. 2e left, 2f**), with no additive effect in the *ndc80-1 smc5-2KE* double mutant (**Fig. 2e left, 2f**). Conversely, the *ndc10-1* mutant showed no increase in chromatin dynamics compared to the WT, while the Smc5-2KE mutation induced an increase in chromatin mobility **Fig. 2e right, 2f**). These results indicate that only kinetochore mutations disrupting microtubule binding have an impact on chromatin dynamics.

These data confirm that the *smc5-2KE* mutant acts as expected for a variant with reduced microtubule binding. In addition, our analysis collectively demonstrates that changes in microtubule binding, whether due to kinetochore mutants or microtubule depolymerization, are sufficient to enhance chromatin dynamics away from the centromere.

The *smc5-2KE* mutant modifies pericentromeric chromatin properties

The results above suggested that *smc5-2KE* mutant may reveal an additional effect of the Smc 5/6 interaction: impacting chromatin properties at pericentromeres. To evaluate the impact of the *smc5-2KE* mutant on these properties, we compared intra-chromosomal distances of different loci in WT and mutant cells. Changes in intra-chromosomal distances underline changes in compaction, rigidity or loop extrusion activity [23,29,50]. We used strains R1 and R3 where pairs of differently fluorescently-labelled loci, distant by ~180 kb, are scattered on chromosome IV [29] (Methods). The R1 strain has one labelled locus in a pericentromeric position (at 4 kb from CEN IV, **Fig. 3a**) and the R3 strain has two labelled loci located centrally on the chromosome arm (at 735 kb from CEN IV, **Fig. 3b**). The *smc5-2KE* mutation was introduced in both strains, and 2D distances between pairs of loci were measured from 3D images (Methods). As a control, we used Zeocin, which promotes an increase in intra-chromosomal distances, as previously shown (**Fig. 3a-b**) [29,50]. While intra-chromosomal distances between pair of loci in R3 strain remained similar between R3 WT and R3 *smc5-2KE* strains (**Fig. 3b**), a significant increase in intra-chromosomal distances was observed in the R1 *smc5-2KE* mutant compared to the R1 WT strain (**Fig. 3a**). This increase suggests that at this sub-chromosomal scale, changes in chromatin properties occur in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, which are revealed when at least one locus is pericentromeric. Although these data do not precisely define whether chromatin decompaction or stiffening are induced by the *smc5-2KE*

mutant, they do indicate that the K624 and K631-dependent association of Smc5 with

microtubules is required to establish or maintain pericentromeric chromatin.

Polymer model recapitulates changes in chromatin dynamics at pericentromeres

We next used biophysical polymer simulations (Methods) to determine if in the

pericentromeric region, microtubule binding and chromatin structure together could drive

chromatin dynamics. Initially, we assessed chromatin mobility at positions corresponding to

11, 23, 90 and 730 kb from the centromere of different chromosomes. Polymer simulation

showed that the increase of MSD_{10s} was proportional to the distance to the centromere as

observed *in vivo* and plateaued at 90 kb (**Fig. 4a** compared to **Fig. 1c**). Although the increase

in mobility in the polymer model was less pronounced than in the experimental data, the

relative features were present and would allow investigation of the effects of perturbations.

We then modified variables related to microtubule tethering and chromatin stiffness and

analyzed simulated chromatin dynamics. We first investigated the effect of weakening

microtubule tethering to the kinetochore. The spring constant of the harmonic bond between

the centromere and the SPB was loosened from a value ensuring a fixed bond to one yielding

an energy of 1kbT at 105 nm extension from the 400 nm rest length. Loosening the

attachment increased mobility for loci 11 kb away from the centromere, as we observed when

microtubules were depolymerized by nocodazole, but left loci 90 kb unchanged **(Fig. 2d, Fig.**

4b and **Fig. S6**), indicating that tethering by microtubules induces only a local effect on

chromatin mobility (see discussion). We then modified chromatin state by increasing global

chromatin stiffness. In contrast to the position-dependent change when weakening

microtubule tethering, this led to a global mobility increase independent of the distance from

the centromere (**Fig. 4c** and **Fig. S7**). This is expected, as even in the simple Rouse model,

mobility increases when the spring constant between monomers increases [29].

We reasoned that both effects could be at play in the pericentromeric region since the Smc5-

2KE mutation displayed a greater increase in mobility than the nocodazole treatment. To test

if this was possible, we combined a stiffness increase with the loosened chromatin tethering

to microtubules. We observed that stiffening further increased chromatin dynamics, like the

results seen *in vivo* for the difference between WT nocodazole and the *smc5-2KE* mutant (**Fig.**

2d, Fig. 4d and Fig. S8). These results show that a relaxation of microtubule attachment and
a stiffer chromatin are sufficient to explain the increase in pericentromeric chromatin
dynamics observed *in vivo* in the *smc5-2KE* mutant. They further support our hypothesis that
Smc5 binds to both microtubules and chromatin to maintain pericentromeric chromatin
folding and dynamics.

The *smc5-2KE* mutant affects homologous recombination at pericentromeres

Chromatin organization plays a central role in the efficiency of DSB repair [51–53] and Smc5/6
also contributes to DSB repair via. To assess whether the *smc5-2KE* mutant influences DSB
repair by HR both near and far from the centromere, we used a system tracking HR upon a
single DSB induction [54] (**Fig. 5a**). I-*Sce*I is expressed on plasmid with the galactose-inducible
GAL1-10 promoter to induce the DSB (+DSB), while an empty vector serves as control (-DSB).
Successful HR between donor and recipient sequences leads to mCherry expression,
detectable by red fluorescence in living cells (**Fig. 5a**). Recipient mCherry sequence was
introduced at 5 kb (named C) and 404 kb (named L) from CEN IV in both the WT and the *smc5-*
2KE mutant strains, resulting in four distinct strains (**Fig. 5b**). The I-*Sce*I cleavage efficiency in
these strains, quantified by qPCR, was ~80%, after 6 hours of I-*Sce*I induction, irrespective of
the position of the cutting site [54] (**Fig. S9a**). Cell survival was assessed by colony forming unit
(CFU) assays. As expected, in the absence of I-*Sce*I, WT and *smc5-2KE* C and L colonies grew
in both inducing and non-inducing conditions (**Fig. 5b**), while DSB induction by I-*Sce*I led to a
severe growth defect in the absence of the donor, in all four strains, with a CFU of almost 0%
(**Fig. 5b**).

Interestingly, providing the donor sequence on the dCEN plasmid to allow DSB repair by HR,
had different outcomes in *smc5-2KE* depending on the DSB position. When the DSB was in
the pericentromeric region, the *smc5-2KE* mutant showed significantly reduced survival rates
compared to the WT (C strains, $15 \pm 6\%$ and $55 \pm 12.4\%$, respectively, **Fig. 5b**). In contrast,
both WT and the *smc5-2KE* mutant presented similar survival rates for a DSB located in the L
position ($40 \pm 7.5\%$ for both L strains) (**Fig. 5b**). Importantly CFU values and the percentage of
mCherry-expressing cells were consistent across conditions, confirming that survival was due
to successful HR. At the C position, $44 \pm 3.4\%$ of WT cells and only $22.5 \pm 1.7\%$ of *smc5-2KE*
cells expressed mCherry (**Fig. 5c**). However, at the L position, both WT and *smc5-2KE* strains

showed similar mCherry expression levels (36 ± 2.5% for both; **Fig. 5c**). HR defect could not be explained by a change in Smc5/6 occupancy at DSB, as ChIP-qPCR of Smc5-MYC or *smc5-2KE*-MYC revealed no significant differences, irrespective of the DSB position (**Fig. S9b-c**). Taken together, these results demonstrate that Smc5/6 is required for HR at the pericentromeres, but not along the chromosome arm, and reveal the role for Smc5 binding to microtubules in pericentromeric integrity.

Local mobility induced by a DSB is facilitated by microtubules and has been proposed to promote DSB repair by HR [45,55]. We therefore analyzed chromatin mobility at the DSB in the *smc5-2KE* mutant. We introduced a lacO-LacI-GFP array at 10 kb away from the I-*Sce*I cutting site in WT and mutant C and L strains and verified by qPCR that the efficiency of I-*Sce*I cutting was not affected by the array in all strains (80% at 6 hours after induction) (**Fig. S9d**). Chromatin dynamics was tracked after 6 hours of induction, and MSD was plotted through increasing time intervals (**Fig. 5d**, **Fig. S9e**). DSB induction in WT led to an increase in chromatin dynamics, independently of the DSB position, whereas in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, DNA damage did not cause an additional increase in mobility on top of the one generated by the mutation, as reported above (**Fig. 1**, **Fig. 5d**, **Fig. S9e**). These results show that differences in HR efficiency between a pericentromeric DSB and a mid-arm DSB are not related to changes in local chromatin dynamics and suggest that smc5-microtubule association is required for a fraction of the mobility induced by a DSB.

The *smc5-2KE* mutant alters the mitotic spindle integrity

A correlation between pericentromeric chromatin compaction and spindle elongation has been reported previously [6,56]. Since our results point to a role of the association between the Smc5/6 and microtubules on the dynamics and properties of pericentromeric chromatin, this suggests that Smc5/6 may also regulate the mitotic spindle. To explore this hypothesis, we first studied spindle length by measuring the distance between each spindle pole body in dividing cells. We used SPB protein Spc42 fused to mCherry [57] to calculate the 2D distances between the two fluorescent centers of mass as above (**Fig. 3, Fig. 6a left**). In WT cells, spindle length average was 1.18 ± 0.29 μm, whereas *smc5-2KE* mutant exhibited a significant increase to 1.32 ± 0.33 μm (p value < 0,0001) (**Fig. 6a left**), suggesting that the binding between Smc5 and microtubules contributes to the regulation of the spindle length.

Alterations in spindle length can arise from changes in the length of the kinetochore
microtubules connecting centromeres to the SPB, or modifications in the
kinetochore/pericentromere itself. Measuring the distance between GFP-tagged CEN IV and
Spc42-mCherry showed no difference between the WT and *smc5-2KE* mutant (**Fig. 6a right**).
As a control, Zeocin increased CEN-SPB distance as already demonstrated (**Fig. 6a right**) [29,50],
suggesting that *smc5-2KE* does not alter the kinetochore microtubules length. To evaluate the
kinetochore integrity in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, we measured centromere clustering *in vivo* by
visualizing kinetochore protein Mtw1 fused to 3xGFP at the endogenous locus [47]. Mtw1 is a
kinetochore-specific protein, part of the MIND complex, which links the inner and outer layers
of the kinetochore [58]. While Mtw1-3xGFP expressing cells cycled normally, combination with
smc5-2KE surprisingly led to a mitosis defect reminiscent of the no-cut phenotype, where
completion of cytokinesis is delayed [59]. This suggests that Mtw1-3xGFP fusion constitutes a
hypomorphic allele, leading to a kinetochore and mitotic spindle length defect detectable in
the presence of *smc5-2KE*.

In WT cells, Mtw1-3xGFP formed a single fluorescent focus due to the centromeric clustering
typical of the Rabl configuration. Treatment with the microtubule-depolymerizing drug
nocodazole induced fragmentation of the Mtw1-3xGFP labelling into several foci, consistent
with centromeres declustering, as previously reported [60]. Strikingly, the *smc5-2KE* mutant
presented a high percentage of cells with centromere declustering compared to WT (27.26 ±
4.3% and 9.89 ± 2.5% for *smc5-2KE* and WT cells respectively, **Fig. 6c**).

Altogether, our results show that *smc5-2KE* mutant has defects in spindle length and, in
combination with Mtw1-3xGFP, in cytokinesis and centromere clustering. Furthermore, these
results suggest that the association between Smc5/6 and microtubules ensures that
pericentromere structure forms robustly.

Discussion

Pericentromeres across eukaryotic evolution are enriched with SMC complexes, which share
the conserved role of extruding DNA to create loops [13,61,62]. The pericentromeric enrichment of
SMCs and their extruding activity theoretically leads to a structure described, from a physical
perspective, as a bottlebrush, balancing the outward pulling forces of microtubule with the

inward attractive forces of chromatin during cell division [4]. Smc5/6 has been shown to associate

with microtubules in budding yeast and *Xenopus* [15,63]. However, the role of this association in

organizing pericentromeric structure *in vivo* was previously unknown. By measuring chromatin

dynamics in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, which decreases the affinity between Smc5 and

microtubules, we demonstrate that Smc5 associates with microtubules *in vivo* and regulates

chromatin mobility along the chromosome, as well as chromatin properties in the

pericentromeric region. Moreover, we show that Smc5/6 association with microtubules

specifically contributes to DSB repair efficiency in the pericentromeric region and maintains the

integrity of the mitotic spindle.

We provide evidence that the conserved residues K624 and K631 in the hinge region of Smc5

connect the protein to microtubules both *in vitro* and *in vivo.* First, the *smc5-2KE* mutant shows

a decrease in microtubule binding by co-sedimentation assay (**Fig. 1a**). Second, in this mutant,

chromatin dynamics far from centromeres mirror microtubule depolymerization (**Fig. 2d, 2f**)

and resemble the effects observed in the *ndc80-1* kinetochore mutant (**Fig. 2e-f**). Third,

combining *smc5-2KE* with *ndc80-1* or with microtubule depolymerization by nocodazole shows

no additional effects on chromatin dynamics. This supports the idea that the association of

Smc5 with microtubules specifically requires both residues K624 and K631, only. Fourth,

polymer modelling shows that loosening the interaction between centromeres and the SPB

increases pericentromeric chromatin mobility, as observed in the *smc5-2KE* mutant (**Fig. 4b,**

4d). Finally, the *smc5-2KE* mutant affects the mitotic spindle, including spindle length (**Fig. 6a**),

and when combined with the kinetochore protein Mtw1-3xGFP, centromere clustering and

cytokinesis (**Fig. 6b-c**). The ability of Smc5/6 to bind microtubules, regardless of the phase of

the cell cycle, is thus an important emerging property of this complex.

The association between Smc5/6 and microtubules has critical consequences for the folding

of the pericentromeric region. In this region, measurements of both chromatin mobility and

intra-chromosomal distances in the *smc5-2KE* mutant indicate that reduced association with

microtubules, and only them, impacts chromatin structure, potentially leading to increased

rigidity or decompaction, as shown by polymer modelling. How could the Smc5-2KE mutation

affect the properties of pericentromeric chromatin? Loss of microtubules polymerization or

Ndc80 kinetochore mutants, such as Gal-Nuf2, where Nuf2 is repressed in the presence of

glucose, result in decreased levels of histone H4 and H2B in the pericentromere, as shown by FRAP [64]. The fact that a reduction of histones has been related to chromatin decompaction together with increased chromatin dynamics [42,45,50], suggests that disruption of microtubule-induced tension in the *smc5-2KE* mutant could result in decreased levels of histones in the pericentromeric region, chromatin decompaction and subsequent chromatin mobility increase. Moreover, loss of microtubules polymerization increases intra-chromosomal contacts and affects pericentromeric configuration [7], suggesting that the tension created by microtubules can regulate chromatin structure close to microtubules attachment [7]. Therefore, the interaction between Smc5 and microtubules, disrupted in the *smc5-2KE* mutant, might regulate the microtubule-induced tension that influences pericentromeric chromatin folding.

Another interesting possibility is that the Smc5/6 complex regulates pericentromeric chromatin structure via its DNA compaction activity, consistent with recent single molecule experiments [65,66]. Mechanistically, we cannot exclude that the modification of the pericentromeric chromatin structure in the *smc5-2KE* mutant could be related to the loop extrusion capacity of Smc5/6 dimers, as recently demonstrated [13]. If mutation of both K621 and K634 alters dimerization or stabilization of the two Smc5/6 complexes, it could disrupt loop extrusion, impacting persistence length and/or chromatin compaction. However, depletion of the entire complex, which consequently abolishes loop extrusion activity, has an impact on chromatin mobility opposite to the Smc5-2KE mutation, suggesting distinct roles on chromatin properties (**Fig. S5d**). Alternatively, cohesin or condensin recruitment could be compromised in the *smc5-2KE* mutant leading to decompaction/stiffening, at the chromatin scale, of the pericentromeric region [5] and, subsequently, increased chromatin dynamics (**Fig. 1c**) [34,42,67].

It is intriguing that disrupting the microtubule binding to centromeres, either by depolymerization of microtubules in the presence of nocodazole, by affecting the kinetochore in the *ndc80-1* mutant or with the *smc5-2KE* mutant results in increased chromatin dynamics not only close to the centromere but also at locations distant from it. It is possible that once centromeres are freed from microtubules, they exhibit increased movement, which could be translated into greater chromatin mobility further along the chromosome. By analogy, a rope

with movement at one end could lead to increased movement at the other end. However, by

simulating weakened microtubule anchoring, the polymer model fails to fully reproduce the

in vivo increase in chromatin dynamics away from the centromere (**Fig. 4b**), possibly due to

unmodeled features such as SMC-mediated loop formation or centromeres declustering,

which might influence chromatin density *in vivo.*

One of the pericentromeric chromatin functions mediated by the association of the Smc5/6

complex with microtubules is clarified by the "no-cut" phenotype (**Fig. 6b**). Defects in

cytokinesis are indeed observed when the *smc5-2KE* mutant is combined with Mtw1-3xGFP.

This phenotype, also described in cells with mutations in kinetochore proteins such as *ndc10-*

1 and *ndc80-1* alleles [59,68] suggests that the interaction between the Smc5-2KE mutation and

Mtw1-3xGFP is associated with compromised kinetochores [69]. Interestingly, the "no-cut"

phenotype has been described in cells with incomplete DNA segregation [70], indicating that

disruption in chromosome segregation can lead to cytokinesis defects. Thus, it is conceivable

that the combination of Smc5-2KE with Mtw1-3xGFP results in chromosome segregation

defects leading to the "no-cut" phenotype and pinpoints to the important function of Smc5/6

in establishing pericentromeric chromatin through its association with microtubules.

It has previously been shown both in budding yeast and mammalian cells, that Smc5/6 is

enriched around DSBs [21,22,71] and contributes to HR by resolving Holliday junctions [18,25,26], as

well as by maintaining the ends of a DSB together [23]. In line with the role of Smc5/6 in HR, we

show that the Smc5-2KE mutation leads to reduced repair efficiency only at pericentromeres

(**Fig. 5**). In this chromatin context, the lack of association between Smc5/6 and microtubules

may indirectly impact HR efficiency through microtubule-induced chromatin properties

perturbations that we reported in this region (**Fig. 3**). Yet, the *smc5-2KE* mutant could also

directly impair pericentromeric DSB repair. First, mutating the hinge domain of Smc5, which

has been shown to have affinity for ssDNA *in vitro* [16,72], could affect the putative interaction

between the Smc5/6 complex and ssDNA at DSB, potentially impacting 5' DNA resection at

DSBs or the maintenance of the DSB ends [23]. Second, the lack of association between

microtubules and the Smc5/6 could hinder the efficient relocalization of damaged

pericentromeres to the nuclear periphery, in line with the reported role of the Smc5/6

complex relocalization for DSBs in repetitive rDNA sequences in budding yeast [73] and in

heterochromatin in *Drosophila* [74,75]. Third, upon a DSB near the centromere, DNA resection

may lead to detachment of the centromere from microtubules, triggering the formation of

damage-induced microtubules (DIM) to recapture the centromere as proposed [76]. This

process would require Smc5/6; thus, a mutation affecting association with DIMs could

hamper centromere recapture and efficient DSB repair.

Taken together, our focus on chromatin dynamics emerged as a powerful approach for

understanding the functional relevance of the association between Smc5/6 with microtubules

on the maintenance and integrity of pericentromeric chromatin. We propose that the

enrichment of Smc5/6 at pericentromeres, together with its association with microtubules,

contribute to the maintenance of pericentromere chromatin stability in the face of mitotic

forces. Smc5/6 enrichment in the pericentromeric region is conserved throughout mitosis of

many organisms [9,22,77]. It is likely that a similar association between Smc5/6 and microtubules

occurs in mammals during open mitosis, the only phase when microtubules interact with

centromeric regions in mammals. Therefore, the role of Smc5/6 in preserving pericentromeric

structure during mitosis might be conserved through evolution.

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Legends to the figures

Figure 1: The *smc5-2KE* mutant leads to an increased chromatin dynamics at centromeres and beyond. (a) The fraction of microtubule-bound Smc5 and Smc5-2KE from 3 independent experiments was plotted as a function of microtubules (MT) concentrations. Dissociation constants (Kd) were determined by curve fitting to a hyperbola. **(b)** Co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) experiments showing the association of Nse3-3xSTII with Smc5 or Smc5-2KE proteins (both tagged with C-terminal 13xMYC epitopes) in yeast extracts. A whole cell extract was loaded as an input (7%; **left**) and Smc5/6 complex components were immunoprecipitated from this extract using StrepTactin XT® resin (**right**). For each panel, the first lane represents a negative control where only Nse3 was tagged (with 3xSTII), whereas the second and third lanes show Nse3-3xSTII co-purified with Smc5-13xMYC and Smc5-2KE-13xMYC proteins, respectively. **(c)** Mean square displacement (MSDs) as a function of increasing time intervals in the WT (blue) and in the *smc5*-2KE mutant (green) for a locus at different positions of chromosome IV (11kb, 90 kb and 730 kb, from left to right). Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value. * ($p<0.05$), *** ($p<0.0001$). **(d)** Distributions of the exponent alpha (upper line) and of the sub-diffusion coefficient D (lower line) for the WT (blue) and in the *smc5-2KE* mutant (green) for loci at different positions of chromosome IV. The values of parameters alpha and D are calculated from single trajectories as described in Material and Methods. Vertical lines correspond to average values (WT in blue, *smc5-2KE* mutant in green).

Figure 2: The binding of microtubules to kinetochore is necessary but not sufficient to control pericentromeric chromatin dynamics. (a) Experimental protocol used to depolymerize microtubules with 20 ng/µl of nocodazole while continued cycling. **(b)** Tub2-GFP in the WT and in the *smc5-2KE* mutant with or without addition of nocodazole. **(c)** Cells synchronization monitored by flow cytometry in cells treated with nocodazole (15 ng/µl). Samples were taken at 0, 30 and 120 minutes after induction. **(d)** MSD as a function of increasing time intervals in the WT and *smc5*-2KE mutant at 11, 90 and 730 kb with or without the presence of nocodazole. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value "ns" non-significant, *** ($p<0.0001$). **(e)** MSDs as a function of increasing time intervals of the locus at 90 kb in the *ndc80-1* mutant (**left**) and *ndc10-1* mutant (**right**) with or without the Smc5-2KE mutation at 37°C. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value "ns" non-significant, *** ($p<0.0001$) **(f)** Table summarizing the

different conditions with values extracted from the MSD: MSD at 10 s, the anomalous exponent (alpha), the sub-diffusive coefficient (D) and the number of cells analyzed.

Figure 3: The *smc5-2KE* mutant changes chromatin properties in the pericentromeric region. **(a-b)** Cumulative distribution functions (CDF) show the intrachromosomal distances distribution measured for two pairs of loci 180 kb apart at two different positions of the chromosome IV, **(a)** close to the centromere (R1) and **(b)** in the middle of the arm (R3) **(right)** in the presence or absence of Zeocin. Three experiments were done in each case: R1: N_{WT}=21806, N_{2KE}=9014, $N_{WT\,ZEO}$=4091, $N_{2KE\,ZEO}$=1570 and for R3: N_{WT}=2778, N_{2KE}=4403.

Figure 4: Polymer model recapitulates changes in chromatin dynamics at centromeres: **(a)** Comparison of MSDs for loci with various distances to the centromere. **(b)** Effect of increasing the flexibility of the SPB tether from rigid (red curves) to a spring constant of $1kbT/(105\,nm)^2$ which would allow for a standard deviation of 74 nm (105 nm/sqrt(2)) if no other forces were applied (blue curves). Left plot shows loci 11kb from the centromere and the right shows loci 90 kb from the centromere. Only loci on chromosomes larger than 400 kb excluding Chr XII were included. The inset shows a 2D slice of the centromere positions for the loose (blue) and rigid (red) centromeres. Bonds are shown in grey and scale bar is 500 nm. **(c)** Effect of increasing polymer stiffness from one leading to a persistence length of 70 nm (red curves) to one with an angular spring constant that is 20% higher (blue curves). Loci are as in (b). Inset shows a 2D conformation of Chr I in the two conditions, scale bar is 500 nm. **(d)** MSD for loci 11 kb away from the centromere when comparing effects of increasing flexibility (blue and red curves, same as left panel of (b)) and combining flexibility and stiffness (grey curve).

Figure 5: The *smc5-2KE* mutant decreases homologous recombination efficiency at pericentromeres. (a) Schematic representation of the system to track homologous recombination (HR). In the recipient mCherry, I-*Sce*I has a 30 bp I-*Sce*I cutting site sequence followed by a stop codon (red bar) inserted at 57 amino acids from the end of the mCherry coding sequence. The donor (dCen) is a full-length mCherry lacking promoter and terminator sequences, carried on a centromeric plasmid. A functional mCherry could be expressed only after successful HR. **(b)** Colony formation unit (CFU) test showing three conditions: without DSB (-DSB), with a DSB (+DSB) and with a DSB and a donor (DSB+donor) in the C and in the L strain for the WT and for the *smc5-2KE* mutant. Ratio between Induced

I-*Sce*I/Non induced I-*Sce*I. Three experiments were conducted with the number of cells counted as follows: For the C strain, $N_{WT\ PRS}$ =487, $N_{WT\ PB}$ =528, $N_{WT\ Cen}$ =668, $N_{2KE\ PRS}$ =330, $N_{2KE\ PB}$ =620, $N_{2KE\ Cen}$ =752. For the L strain, $N_{WT\ PRS}$ =344, $N_{WT\ PB}$ =309, $N_{WT\ Cen}$ =328, $N_{2KE\ PRS}$ = 261, $N_{2KE\ PB}$ =379, $N_{2KE\ Cen}$ =387. T-test was used to analyse differences between groups, with "ns" for not significant (P>0.05) and ** for P<0.001. **(c)** Number of red cells (%) without DSB (-DSB), with a DSB (+DSB) and with a DSB and a donor (DSB+donor) in the C and in the L strain. Three experiments were conducted, counting the number of cells for the C strain as follows: $N_{WT\ PRS}$ =506, $N_{WT\ PB}$ =607, $N_{WT\ Cen}$ =1299, $N_{2KE\ PRS}$ = 744, $N_{2KE\ PB}$ =712, $N_{2KE\ Cen}$ =1551. For the L strain, the counts were $N_{WT\ PRS}$ =962, $N_{WT\ PB}$ =799, $N_{WT\ Cen}$ =1828, $N_{2KE\ PRS}$ =943, $N_{2KE\ PB}$ =774, $N_{2KE\ Cen}$ =924. **(d)** MSD as a function of increasing time intervals in the WT and *smc5*-2KE mutant after inducing a single DSB either at position C or L. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value "ns" non-significant, *** (p<0.0001).

Figure 6: The *smc5-2KE* mutant alters the mitotic spindle integrity. (a) CEN IV was tagged with GFP and SPB with Spc42-mCherry. 2D distances between two SPBs (red dots) (**left**) and between Cen (green) and SPB (red) in dividing cells (**right**) were measured. Three experiments were conducted, measuring the number of cells for SPB-SPB (N_{WT}=224, N_{2KE}=332) and for CEN-SPB (N_{WT}=247, N_{2KE}=380). CEN-SPB was also measure with the presence of Zeocin with $N_{WT\ ZEO}$=1299, $N_{2KE\ ZEO}$=2033. T-test was used to analyze differences between groups, with "ns" for not significant, * for (P<0.05) and *** for P<0.0001. **(b)** Mtw1-3xGFP and Smc5-2KE Mtw1-3xGFP cells were counted according to their distribution in G1, S or G2/M cell cycle phases. Dead cells or cells presenting defective mitosis (DF) were also counted. Three experiments were conducted, counting the number of cells as follows: N_{WT}=439, $N_{WT\ NOC}$=588, N_{2KE}=413, $N_{2KE\ NOC}$=652. T-test was used to analyze with * for P<0.01 and ** for P<0.001. **(c)** Mtw1 was labelled with 3xGFP to measure kinetochore clusters with or without nocodazole addition (15 ng/μl) or without % of non-clustered cells was plotted. T-test was used to analyze differences between groups, with "ns" for not significant, ** for (P<0.001).

Figure S1: Smc5-2KE mutation does not affect cell growth nor cell cycle. (a) Microtubule polymer binding assay. Coomassie blue-stained gels showing the binding of the hinge region of Smc5 (residues 215–885) to the microtubule (MT, μM) polymer fraction (pellet; P) after centrifugation. Note how Smc5 hinge domain progressively transferred from the

depolymerized tubulin fraction (supernatant; S) to the polymer fraction (P) as the MT concentration increased and eventually bound all available Smc5 protein (top gel). In contrast, the Smc5-2KE mutant (lower gel) showed strongly reduced affinity for MT polymers, as evidenced by the substantial fraction of the hinge domain remaining in the supernatant fraction at the highest concentration of MT shown in the gel (4 μM). **(b)** Experimental protocol used to synchronize cells in G1 using alpha factor. **(c)** Percentage of budded and late anaphase cells at each time point, respectively. **(d)** Cell synchronization monitored by flow cytometry. **(e)** Images showing examples of G1 (**top**), metaphase (**middle**) and anaphase (**bottom**) cell morphologies monitored in yeast cultures expressing Smc5 or smc5-2KE. Prior to imaging, cells were fixed, washed and stained with DAPI to enable nuclei visualization. Scale bars represent 5μm.

Figure S2: Smc5-2KE mutation increases chromatin mobility along the arm affecting the positive charges of K624 and K631. (a) Table summarizing the different conditions with values extracted from the MSD: MSD at 10 s, the anomalous exponent (alpha), the sub-diffusive coefficient (D) and the number of cells analyzed. **(b)** Ratio of MSD at 10 s between *smc5-2KE* versus WT at different positions of the chromosome IV. **(c)** MSDs as function of time in the WT, *smc5-2KR* and *smc5-2KA* mutants. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value. ns (p>0.05) and *** (p<0.0001).

Figure S3. Smc5-2KE mutation increases chromatin mobility throughout the cell cycle. (a) Experimental protocol used to synchronize cells in G1 with 50 ng/ml of alpha factor (**left**). WT and *smc5*-2KE MSDs at 11 and 90 Kb at G1. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value *** (p<0.0001) (**right**). **(b)** Experimental protocol used to synchronize in G2/M cells carrying the P_{MET3}-*CDC20* with 2 mM of methionine (**left**). WT and *smc5-2KE* MSDs at 11 and 23 Kb at G2/M. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between distributions, with the p-value *** (p<0.0001) (**right**). **(e)** Table summarizing the different conditions with values extracted from the MSD: MSD at 10 sec, the alpha, the sub-diffusive coefficient (D) and the number of cells analyzed.

Figure S4. The *smc5-2KE* mutant does not induce spontaneous DNA damage. (a) Rad52-foci (protein involved in HR) in WT and *smc5-2KE* mutant (2KE). Three experiments were conducted with the number of cells counted as follows: N_{WT}=608, N_{2KE}=1388, $N_{WT\ ZEO}$=650,

N$_{2KE\ ZEO}$=509. T-test was used to analyze differences between groups, with "ns" for not

significant and *** for P<0.0001. **(b)** Representative results from immunoblotting showing

the phosphorylation (Ph) status of Rad53 in WT, *smc5-2KE* cells and in response to Zeocin

treatment (zeo). Actin was used as a loading control. Blots are representative of three

experiments. **(c)** Representative results from immunoblotting showing the phosphorylation

of H2A (γH2A) in WT, *smc5-2KE* cells and in response to Zeocin treatment. Actin was used as

a loading control. Blots are representative of three experiments (**left**). Protein levels are

represented as mean ratio values quantified from protein γH2A versus. Actin compared to the

WT (**right**).

Figure S5. The Smc5 or Smc6 degradation decreases chromatin dynamics. (a) Experimental

protocol used to synchronize cells in metaphase with 2 mM of methionine cells carrying the

P$_{MET3}$-CDC20, following by degradation of SMCs with 1mM auxin for 1 hour prior to imaging.

Auxin being diluted in ethanol (EtOH), controls with EtOH only were performed **(b)** Growth

phenotypes on solid medium with or without Auxin in WT, Smc5-AID, Smc6-AID and Smc1-

AID **(c)** Representative results from immunoblotting showing the degradation of the Smc5

upon 30 minutes of treatment with 1 mM auxin. Actin was used as a loading control. Blots are

representative of three experiments. **(d-e)** MSDs as a function of increasing time intervals in

the absence of auxin (dark blue) and in the presence of Auxin (light blue) in a locus at 11kb

from the CEN4 in **(d)** Smc5-AID, Smc6-AID and **(e)** Smc1-AID. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results

between distributions, with the p-value *** (p<0.0001). **(f)** Table summarizing the different

conditions with values extracted from the MSD: MSD at 10 sec, the anomalous exponent

(alpha), the sub-diffusive coefficient (D) and the number of cells analyzed.

Figure S6. Weakening the microtubule tether to the kinetochore gradually abolishes

position-dependent mobility: Sweep of the wiggle distance (wd) of the bond connecting the

centromere to the spindle pole body (See methods for a mathematical definition of wd. In the

absence of other forces it is $\sqrt{2}$ times the bond standard deviation). **(a)** Mean square

displacement (MSD) of loci 11 kb from the centromere. **(b)** MSD of loci 90 kb from the

centromere. Candidate loci are selected as in Fig. 4 and wild type (WT) refers to the simulation

in Fig. 4a.

Figure S7. Increasing chromatin stiffness increases mobility globally: Sweep of chromatin stiffness by increasing the stiffness of the bond angle potential by up to a factor two. **(a)** Loci 11kb from the centromere **(b)** Loci 90kb from the centromere. Candidate loci are selected as in Fig. 4 and wild type (WT) refers to the simulation in Fig. 4a.

Figure S8. Combining chromatin stiffness and loosening the kinetochore tether further increases mobility in the pericentromeric region: Sweep of chromatin stiffness as in Fig. S7 but with a wiggle distance (wd) of 105 nm on the bond connecting the centromere and the spindle pole body. Candidate loci are 11 kb from the centromere and selected as in Fig. 4. Wild type (WT) refers to the simulation in Fig. 4a.

Figure S9. Smc5-2KE mutation affects HR at pericentromeres without affecting Smc5/6 chromatin loading (a) I-*Sce*I efficiency (%) after 0h, 2h, 4h and 6h after inducing the I-*Sce*I with galactose in Smc5 WT and *smc5-2KE* for centromeric (C)and luminal (L) strains. qPCR was done using primers flanking the I-*Sce*I cutting site and actin was used as a loading control. The error bars represent the standard deviation of three independent experiments. **(b-c)** Chromosomal association of Smc5-MYC and Smc5-2KE-MYC at selected chromosomal positions as determined by ChIP-qPCR for **(b)** the C strain and **(c)** the L strain. Chromosomal positions from the DSB are indicated in the X-axis. T-test was used to analyze differences between groups, with "ns" for not significant ($P>0.05$) and * for $P<0.01$. **(d)** I-*Sce*I efficiency (%) of the Smc5 and *smc5-2KE* for C and L strains, used for local mobility. **(e)** Table summarizing the different conditions with values extracted from the MSD for the fourth strains used in local mobility: C WT, C *smc5-2KE,* L WT and L *smc5-2KE*: MSD at 10 sec, the anomalous exponent (alpha), the sub-diffusive coefficient (D) and the number of cells analyzed.

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Methods

Yeast strains

S. cerevisiae strains used in this study are detailed in **Table 1** and isogenic to BY4741.

Strain construction

Mutations of K624E and K631E of *SMC5* were performed with CRISPR/Cas9 using a 80 pb donor carrying the desired mutations as described in [54]. Unique duplexed 20 nucleotides long primers next to the PAM sequence (AGG) close to K631 (oACS13/14) were cloned into a replicative Cas9-KANMX plasmid (pEF562, Addgene plasmid #100955) to yield (pEF590) verified by PCR and sequencing. Equimolar amounts of pEF590 and the 80 pb donor (oACS69) were used to transform the desired strains and the corresponding smc5-2KE transformants were verified by sequencing. The same strategy was used to obtain smc5-2KA and smc5-2KR with different donor sequences carrying the specific mutation (oACS97 and oACS270 respectively).

The strains used to track the local mobility of a DSB were constructed as described in [54]. Briefly, the I-*Sce*I cutting site was inserted at the desired position, by replacing a KANMX cassette integrated into intergenic regions of chromosome IV at positions 453880-453959 (C strain) or 853996-854075 (L strain) with an mCherry sequence containing the I-*Sce*I cutting site. LacO repeats at 10 kb from the cutting site were introduced by replacing a KANMX cassette integrated at positions 462252-462602 (strain C) or 844554-844952 (strain L) with pEF222 plasmid digested by *Bgl*II (BioLabs, R0144). LacI-GFP was introduced by digesting plasmid pEF569 [78] with *Nhe*I (BioLabs, R3131). The ARS-CEN-HIS3 plasmid (pB07, obtained from B. Pardo) for I-*Sce*I expression under inducible pGAL1-10 promoter, was used after insertion of a stop codon in the *HIS3* genomic sequence by CrispR/Cas9 as above. The 20 nucleotides duplex oligos (oACS204/205) next to the PAM (TGG) sequence in *HIS3* and an 80 pb primer (oACS208) donor were used.

Depletion of *SMC5* was obtained by using a degron AFB2 based inducible [79]. AID-9MYC tag at the C-terminus of *SMC5* was introduced by homologous recombination using pEF565 [80] and

832 (oACS40/53) oligonucleotides. AFB2 was introduced at the *HIS3* locus by digesting the plasmid

833 pEF604 (obtained from T.Teixeira) carrying *AFB2-HIS3* by *Nhe*I (BioLabs, R3131).

Media and growth conditions

Cells were grown in SC medium (2 g/l amino acids mix, 20 g/l sugar, 6.7 g/l yeast nitrogen

base) until they reached the mid-log phase. Multiple DNA damages were induced with 250

μg/ml Zeocin (Thermo Fisher, R25001) added for 4 hours (Herbert *et al.,* 2014). Microtubules

were depolymerized using 15 ng/μl of nocodazole (Sigma, M1404) dissolved in DMSO, for 30

minutes. Depolymerization was checked in parallel by Tub2-GFP disappearance in strain

YPT257 [78]. To induce a single DSB, 2% of galactose was added for 6 hours.

G1 arrest was performed using 50 ng/ml of alpha-factor (Zymo Research, Y1001M) in *Δbar1*

deleted strains during 3 hours prior to imaging. G2/M arrest in metaphase was done through

P_{MET3}-*CDC20* [7]depletion with 2 mM methionine added 2 hours before imaging. G2/M arrest in

prometaphase was performed with nocodazole (Sigma, M1404), 20 ng/μl during 1h and 10

ng/μl for an additional hour. Smc5, Smc6 or Smc1 degradation was obtained by adding 1mM

of auxin (Sigma, I3750-5G-A), dissolved in Ethanol 100%, 1 hour to the culture before imaging.

MT binding and cell proliferation assays

848 The affinity of Smc5 hinge domain (residues 215 to 885) for MT polymers was monitored using

849 a pelleting assay, as previously published [15]. The proliferation phenotype of cells expressing

850 wild-type and smc5 mutants was assessed by spotting 5-fold dilutions of yeast cultures on the

851 surface of solid medium and monitoring yeast growth at the indicated temperatures after 2-

852 4 days incubation at various temperatures [15].

Co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) of Smc5/6 complex subunits

The co-IP was performed as described in (Roy et al., 2024; under revision at eLife) with minor

modifications. Yeast cultures (50mL) were grown at 30°C in YEPD medium to an optical density

(OD_{600}) of 0.7–0.8. Cells were harvested and lysed with glass beads in co-IP lysis buffer (50mM

HEPES – KOH pH 7.5, 140mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 1mM EDTA

pH 8.0, 1mM AEBSF, 10μM Pepstatin-A, 10μM E64). The purification resin (StrepTactin XT®)

was washed with sterile water and PBS-BSA buffer (1x PBS [phosphate buffered saline], 1%

BSA) just prior to the co-IP experiment. Cell lysates were cleared by centrifugation (30 minutes at 13,000rpm) and combined (1mL) with the washed resin for an overnight incubation (~12h) at 4°C with gentle rotation (20rpm). The resin was subsequently washed in sequence with 1) co-IP lysis buffer, 2) high salt buffer (50mM HEPES – KOH pH 7.5, 360mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% Sodium deoxycholate, 1mM EDTA pH 8.0) and 3) TE buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 0.1 mM EDTA). The purification resin was finally resuspended in 2X SDS-PAGE sample buffer and heated at 95°C for 5 minutes to elute purified proteins. The eluted proteins were separated on a SDS-polyacrylamide gel [4-12% Bis-Tris gel ran with 1x MOPS electrophoresis buffer (20mM MOPS [3-(N-Morpholino) propanesulfonic acid], 5mM of sodium acetate, 1mM of disodium EDTA [isodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate dihydrate]) for 2h at 120 volts, before being transferred to a membrane and analysed by immunoblotting using a 1:2,000 dilution of mouse anti-Strep antibody and 1:5,000 dilution of mouse anti-Myc (9E10) antibody (GeneTex 369661).

Cell cycle time course experiment

To assess the kinetics of cell cycle progression, a time course experiment was performed as previously described [81]. Specifically, yeast strains were grown in YPD medium at 30°C until they reached an OD_{600} of 0.3-0.4. Alpha factor was then added (5μg/mL) to the medium and, after 1h of growth, a second dose (2μg/mL) was added to ensure optimal arrest in G1. Once ≥ 90% of the cells were synchronized in G1, they were released at 30°C in fresh YEPD medium. Alpha factor (5μg/mL) was added 45 minutes after the initial release to prevent cell cycle re-entry after completion of the first mitosis. For each time point, 1.5ml of cells were collected and pelleted for 2 minutes at 3,000rpm. Cells were then fixed in 1mL of 70% ethanol overnight at 4°C. Cells were washed twice and resuspended in 0.1M KPO_4 pH7.0 buffer. DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole; 2μg/ml) was used to stain yeast nuclei. Separation of nuclei was manually counted in 100 cells per time-point (N=3). Fluorescent images were taken using a Nikon Eclipse Ti2 inverted microscope, with an 100x oil immersion objective.

Flow cytometry

Yeast cells were grown in SC selective medium overnight at 30°C, diluted to $O.D_{600}$ nm = 0,5 in 5 ml next morning for 1h30 at 30°C. If necessary, cells were arrested at G1 or G2/M. 10^7 cells were centrifuged, fixed in 200 μl 70% ethanol and stored at 4°C for 48h. To perform FACS, cells were centrifuged at 10.000 rpm 5 minutes at 4°C, washed and resuspended in 1 ml of sodium citrate (50mM, pH7). 200 μl cells were transferred in polystyrene round-bottom tubes with 20 μL of RNaseA (10 mg/ml Roche, 10109169001) and incubated 1 h at 37°C. Cells were resuspended in 2 ml of sodium citrate (50mM, pH7) with 2.5 μM of SYTOX™ Green nucleic acid stain (Sigma, S7020). Cells were stained 1h at 4°C in the dark for 1 hour. Cells were and analysed with the Attune NxT Flow cytometer.

Microscopy

For microscopy, cells were grown as for FACS. Cells were plated on agarose patches (made of SC medium containing 2% agarose) and sealed using VaLaP (1/3 Vaseline, 1/3 Lanoline and 1/3 Paraffin). Cells were imaged using a widefield microscopy system Nikon Ti-E equipped with the Perfect Focus System (PFS) and a 60x oil immersion objective (Nikon, Plan APO). Andor Neo Scmos camera allowed a vision field of 276x233 μm with a pixel size of 108 nm. Fluorochromes were excited with 35% LED with a wavelength of 477 nm for GFP or 40% LED with a wavelength of 587 nm for mCherry.

Dynamic analysis

Analyses of chromatin mobility were performed as described in Herbert et al., 2017. Briefly, GFP tracking was performed by video microscopy for 3 minutes with an interval time of 100 ms in two dimensions (x,y). A Fiji plugin was used to isolate and extract locus trajectory at each time point throughout the film. After drift correction and signal-to-noise ratio checked with MATLAB scripts, Mean square distances (MSDs) for each trajectory were calculated and concatenated. Power laws to the mean MSD of a population over time intervals between 0.1 and 10s were adapted with MATLAB script and graphs of averaged MSDs were plotted in linear.

For each single locus trajectory sampled at a time resolution δt for an overall time T, the MSD

at time Δt is calculated as the time-average over the $M = \frac{T - \Delta t}{\delta t}$ frames of the squared

displacement performed by the locus between a running initial time $m\delta t$ and the increased

time $m\delta t + \Delta t$:

$$\text{MSD}_i(\Delta t) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left| \vec{r}_i(m\delta t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}_i(m\delta t) \right|^2,$$

For an ensemble of N trajectories (cells), one gets an ensemble of N $MSD_i(\Delta t)$ curves; the

index i therefore refers to i-th the trajectory. Each single curve can then be fitted to a $y(\Delta t) =$

$D\Delta t^\alpha$ function leading to a value of the exponent α. The distribution of the ensemble of the

values of α obtained is shown in Fig. 1d. In principle, the sub-diffusion coefficient D is also

obtained by the same fitting procedure. However, we found that an equivalent, but more

robust estimate of the sub-diffusion coefficient is obtained by the trend of the MSD over the

very first 15 points, as $D = \frac{MSD_i(15\delta t)}{15\delta t}$. The D histograms of Fig. 1d refer to this definition of

the sub-diffusive coefficient.

The MSD can also be averaged over the ensemble of N trajectories (cells) as

$$MSD(\Delta t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} MSD_i(\Delta t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left| \vec{r}_i(m\delta t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}_i(m\delta t) \right|^2,$$

corresponding to the curves of Fig. 1c.

Distances analysis

The analysis of distances between two differently labelled dots (GFP and mCherry) was carried

out either for intrachromosomal loci, or for a pericentromeric locus and the SPB. Acquisition

of 3D z-stacks consist of 35 frames with z steps of 300 nm, illumination with two consecutive

colour channels for each plane with an exposure time of 100ms using a dual band filter set.

First, using images from a strain dually labelled for the same locus, chromatic aberration was

corrected using the plug-in "Descriptor based registration (2d/3d)". The 3D z-stacks were then

converted to 2D using a maximum intensity projection. The dots were then selected using Fiji and the (x,y) coordinates of the red and green loci calculated using a home-made script on Fiji, taking into account the Gaussian intensity of each fluorescent loci. Comparison of distances between loci was performed using Wilcoxon rank-sum tests.

ChIP-qPCR

Yeast cells were grown either in YPD medium or SC-His Raff 2% overnight at 30ºC. Next morning, cells were diluted to a O.D$_{600}$ nm of 0,5 in 45 ml and cells were incubated at 30ºC during 1h30 to reach the exponential phase. To check expression of Smc5 in the whole genome, cells were synchronized at G2/M phase using nocodazole (Sigma, M1404,). Nocodazole (cci. 2 mg/mL) was added two times during the time of synchronization, 20 ng/µL during a first 1h at 30ºC and then 10 ng/µl for an additional hour at 30ºC under agitation. Cell cycle arrest was verified by flow cytometry. In order to check the enrichment of Smc5 around the DSB, DSB was induced to the cell cultures by addition of 2% galactose during 6 hours at 30ºC. 70 OD were recollected and treated with 1% formaldehyde for 12 minutes at room temperature with rotation. Crosslinking was quenched by using 2,25 mL of glycine 2,5 M for 5 minutes with rotation. Then, samples were harvested by centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes and washed twice with cold TBS 1X.

Cells pellet was resuspended in 1,2 ml of lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH pH7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton-X 100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate) supplemented with 1 mM PMSF, phosphatase inhibitor, anti-protease (Roche, 04693132001) and 300 mg of glass beads (Sigma, G8772) and lysed by MagNA Lyser rotor (Roche, 03359093001). The lysate was obtained by centrifuging an eppendorf tube perforated with a sterile needle at 1000 rpm for 1 minute and recovering the extract in a new tube. The extract was transferred to a 1,5 ml falcon tube and sonicated with a PICO sonicator (15x: 30 sec ON, 90 sec OFF, high intensity) to obtain DNA with a range between 200 - 500 pb. After sonication cells were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 10.000 rpm at 4ºC and 25 µL of the supernatant was saved at -80ºC as INPUT. 250 µL of DNA after sonication were incubated with 1 µL of DNA carrier (ST0029, TakaRa Bio), 25 µL of BSA 5% (BP1600, Janssen Pharmacy) and 3,2 µg of anti-MYC antibody (Santa Cruz, Biotechnology, INC) overnight at 4ºC. 30 ml of *Dynabeads™ Pan Mouse IgG* (Thermo Scientific, 11041) were added and incubated at 4ºC for 4 hours. Beads were washed twice with lysis

buffer, twice with lysis buffer + 0,36 M NaCl (50 mM HEPES-KOH pH7.5, 360 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton-X 100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate), twice with washing buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH8, 0.25 M LiCl, 0.5% NP40, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate) and once with elution buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH8, 10 mM EDTA). The supernatant was removed and the immunoprecipitated chromatin was then eluted by incubation in 250 µL TES buffer (50 Mm Tris-HCl, pH 8.0; 10 mM EDTA; 0,5% SDS) for 15 minutes at 65ºC and the supernatant collected, termed IP. The INPUT was mixed with 120 µl of TES buffer. Both INPUT and IP were de-cross-linked at 65ºC with agitation overnight. RNA was degraded by incubation with 2µL RNase A (10 mg/mL) for 1h at 37ºC. Proteins were removed by incubation with 20µL of proteinase K (10 mg/mL) for 2h at 37ºC. DNA was purified by a phenol/Chloroform extraction.

Drop test

Overnight cultures were diluted to a $O.D_{600}=0,5$ and cells were incubated at 30ºC until they reached the exponential phase. Serial 1:5 dilutions were plated starting with a O.D.= 0.2 using the replication plate (R2383-1EA, Sigma) on SC in raffinose or in galactose to induce I-*Sce*I. Plates were incubated at 30°C for 72 hours.

Colony formation unit (CFU)

To quantify the colonies formed in the absence or presence of an I-*Sce*I induced DSB, cells were grown in -Ade -His + raffinose 2% liquid medium overnight at 30°C. After 24 hours, cells were counted in a Malassez chamber and ∼ 100 - 200 cells were spread on -Ade – His + glucose (control) or + galactose plates (DSB induction). Plates were incubated at 30°C and colonies were counted after 72h.

Western blot

Electrophoretic protein separation was done using Bolt^{TM} 4-12% Bis-TrisPlus (Thermo Fisher NW04122BOX) in Mini gels tanks (Life Technology) and the electrophoresis buffer was NuPAGE^{TM} MOPS or MES SDS Running buffer (MOPS: Thermo Fisher NP0001; MES: Thermo Fisher, NP0002) for 24-26 minutes at 220 volts. Then, proteins were transferred in a BioTrace^{TM} nitrocellulose membrane (66485, Pall) in Mini PROTEAN Tetra System tanks (Bio Rad) for 90 minutes. at 100 volts. Membranes were blocked with 5% milk in Tween-TBS and

then probed with 1/1000 Anti-MYC (Santa Cruz, Biotechnology), 1/1000 anti-HA (Sigma,

H3663) or 1/500 anti-γH2A (Abcam, ab15083). Primary antibodies were recognized by

secondary antibodies either anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG HRP-conjugated diluted 1/10000

(Thermo Fisher A11005 and A31556). Blots were developed using the ECL plus western

blotting system (GE Healthcare) during 10-30 sec.

qPCR

Cells were grown overnight in SC-Ade-His with 2% Raffinose at 30°C, diluted again in 2%

Raffinose until they reached the mid-log phase and then, 2% galactose was added to the

culture for I-SceI induction. Cells were collected at 0, 2, 4 and 6 hours after galactose

induction. DNA was extracted from each sample using phenol/chloroform extraction. For this

purpose, cells were centrifuged 1 minute. at 13000 rpm, the pellet was mixed with 300 mg of

glass beads, 200 µL of lysis solution (Triton X-100 2 %, SDS 1 %, NaCl 100 mM, Tris 10 mM pH

8, EDTA 1 mM) and 200 µL phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (Sigma, 77617). The mix was

vortexed for 10 minutes at 4ºC and centrifuged for 10 minutes. at 13000 rpm at 4°C. 140 µL

of the supernatant was transferred into new tubes containing 500 µL ethanol 100% and DNA

was precipitated during 1 hour at 80ºC. The mix was centrifuged for 10 minutes. at 13000 rpm

at 4°C. The pellet was washed with 500 µL of ethanol 70 % and dried at room temperature

resuspended in 40 µL of TE containing 20 µg/µL of RNase (Roche, 10109169001) and

incubated 30 minutes. at 42°C. DNA concentrations were quantified using nanodrop.

qPCRs were prepared in a 360-wells plate. All samples were brought to a concentration of 5

ng/µL. In each well, 4µL of the sample were mixed with 4 µL of Power Track SYBR^{TM} Green

master mix (Thermo Fisher A46109) and 0,3 µL of forward and reverses oligonucleotides (final

concentration 2.10^{-5} M). Oligonucleotides are listed in **Table 2**. I-*Sce*I oligonucleotides

generated a 187bp fragment that flanks the I-*Sce*I cutting site. ACT1 was used as a control to

normalize the samples. The standard curve was performed on actin (control) and I-*Sce*I cutting

site (before cut) to evaluate the efficiency of the couple of primers used. Triplicates from each

sample were performed and four 1:5 dilutions were performed for the standard curve.

Plate sampling was distributed by the epMotion 5070 robot (Eppendorf), qPCR was

performed with QuanStudio5 qPCR machine (Thermo Fisher) under the following conditions:

pre-incubation (95°C – 5 min – 4.4 °C/min), amplification (45 cycles; 95°C – 10 s - 4.4°C/min;

58°C – 10 s - 2.2 °C/min; 72°C – 20 s – 4,4 °C/min), melting curve (95°C – 5 s - 4.4 °C/min; 60°C

– 1 min – 2.2 °C/min; 97°C – continuous – 0.06 °C/min; 10 acquisitions/°C) and cooling (40°C

– 30 s - 2.2 °C/ min.). qPCR was analyzed with Thermo Fisher cloud and normalized by the

Livak method ($2^{\Delta\Delta Ct}$) [82].

Polymer model

The polymer model was identical to the one used in Liu et al. 2023 [83] which was based on the

model   of   Arbona   et   al.   2017   [84]   but   made   in   Polychrom

(https://github.com/open2c/polychrom/tree/master), a python wrapper for polymer

simulations using openMM [85]. The model consisted of a diploid yeast nucleus where each

monomer represents 750 bp and is 15 nm in radius. The monomers were connected with

harmonic bonds with a spring constant parameterized by a wiggle-distance w such that bond

extensions of w lead to bond energies of 1kT

$$k = \frac{2k_B T}{w^2}.$$

From this follows that, in the absence of other forces, the wiggle distance will be equal to $\sqrt{2}$

times the bond standard deviation.

The beads were allowed to interact through the soft "polynomial_repulsive" potential.

Stiffness was introduced through a harmonic force on the bond angle which favored

alignment. The spring constant was chosen to yield a persistence length of 70 nm which was

found optimal by Arbona et al. The nuclear envelope was modeled by a spherical confinement

with a 1μm radius, and all telomeres were attached to the wall using strong harmonic bonds

which allowed movement along the periphery but no radial motion. All centromeres were

attached to the SPB using harmonic bonds with a 400 nm rest length and a high spring

constant, allowing negligible fluctuations in length. The nucleolus was modeled by inserting

112,500 bp at the rDNA region where the size of monomers and bonds were increased by a

factor 14. Long simulations were run to collect a set of starting configurations from which the

starting conformation for short-time simulations were then randomly chosen upon

initialization. The conversion factor between simulation time and experimental time was

chosen to match the MSD of the 11kb loci in the WT condition.

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Tables

Table 1: genotypes of used strains

Common name	Strain	Genotype	Reference
11kb Chr IV	YPE4019	Mata, ura3, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11,15, can1-100, ade2-1, P_{MET3}-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2:: P_{URA3}-TetR-GFP::LEU2, tetOx224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4), yil015w::KanMX	Paldi *et al* 2020
11kb-2KE Chr IV	YPE4144	Mata, ura3, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11,15, can1-100, ade2-1, P_{MET3}-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2:: P_{URA3}-TetR -GFP::LEU2, tetOx224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4), yil015w::KanMX, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
23kb Chr IV	YEF1659	Mata, ura3, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11,15, can1-100, ade2-1, P_{MET3}-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2:: P_{URA3}-TetR -GFP::LEU2, tetOX224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4)	Paldi *et al* 2020
23kb-2KE Chr IV	YPE4145	Mata, ura3, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11,15, can1-100, ade2-1, P_{MET3}-CDC20, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2:: P_{URA3}-TetR -GFP::LEU2, tetOX224-URA3 (tetOs 23kb to right of CEN4), YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
90kb Chr IV	YEF1081	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0 or-851, his3Δ1, can1::HPHMX, his3::HIS3-LacI-GFP, YDR042C::lacO-LEU2	This study
90kb-2KE Chr IV	YEF1654	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0 or-851, his3Δ1, can1::HPHMX, his3::HIS3-LacI-GFP YDR042C::lacO-LEU2, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study

730kb Chr IV	YEF1068	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, iyGL117::TetR-mRFP-NATMX, YDR354W::tetO-URA3 HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP YDR259C::lacO-TLEU2	This study
730kb-2KE Chr IV	YEF1706	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1lys2Δ202, ade2-661, iyGL117::tetR-mRFP NATMX YDR354W::tetO-URA3 HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP, YDR259C::lacO- LEU2, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
90kb-2KA Chr IV	YEF1668	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, can1::HPHMX, ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX::tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 :: KanMX:: mCherry*-I*Sce*I(cs), YOL034W::K624A, YOL034W::K631A,	This study
90kb-2KR Chr IV	YPE4180	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, can1::HPHMX, ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX::tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 ::KanMX:: mCherry*-I*Sce*I(cs), YOL034W::K624R, YOL034W::K631ER	This study
90kb Chr V	YEF1454	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, can1::HPHMX, ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX:: tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 ::KanMX:: mCherry*-I*Sce*I(cs)	García-Fernandez *et al.,* 2022
90kb-2KE Chr V	YEF1666	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, can1::HPHMX, ade2-661,::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX:: tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 :: KanMX:: mCherry*-I*Sce*I(cs), YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
SMC6-AID AFB2	YPE4059	Mat a, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ade2-1, P$_{MET3}$-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2::PURA3::tetR-GFP::LEU2, tetOX224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4), Smc5-AID-9myc-KanMX, his3-11,15 :: pEF604 (=AFB2-HIS3)	This study
SMC1-AID AFB2	YPE4173	Mat a, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ade2-1, P$_{MET3}$-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2::PURA3::tetR-GFP::LEU2, tetOX224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4), yil015w::KanMX, his3-11,15::AFB2-HIS3(pEF604), Smc6-AID-9myc-TRP1	This study

SMC5-AID AFB2	YPE4176	Mat a, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ade2-1, P_{MET3}-CDC20::URA3, Spc42-tdTomato::Nat, leu2::PURA3::tetR-GFP::LEU2, tetOX224-URA3 (tetOs 11,5kb to right of CEN4), yil015w::KanMX, his3-11,15::AFB2-HIS3(pEF604), Smc1-AID-3myc-TRP1	This study
Rad52 GFP	YEF651	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YML032C-GFP-HIS3MX6	
Rad52-GFP 2KE	YEF1647	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YML032C-GFP-HIS3MX6, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
RAD53-HA	YEF954	Mat alpha, ura3-Δ851, trp1-Δ63, leu2Δ1, his3Δ200, ade2-661, yml032c::KANMX, rad53-HA	
RAD53-HA 2KE	YEF1882	Mat alpha, ura3-Δ851, trp1-Δ63, leu2Δ1, his3Δ200, ade2-661, yml032c::KANMX, rad53-HA, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
R1	YEF1065	Mat a, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0/, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, can1::HPHMX, iyGL117::tetR-mRFP- NATMX, YDR003W::tetO-TEF-URA, HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP, YDR095C::256lacO-TEF-LEU2	Herbert *et al* 2017
R1 2KE	YEF1887	Mat a, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0/, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, can1::HPHMX, iyGL117::tetR-mRFP- NATMX, YDR003W::tetO-TEF-URA, HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP, yDR095c::256lacO-LEU2, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
R3	YEF1068	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, iyGL117::tetR-mRFP-NATMX, YDR354W::tetO-TEF-URA3 HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP YDR259C::lacO- LEU2	Herbert *et al* 2017
R3 2KE	YEF1706	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, iyGL117::tetR-mRFP NATMX YDR354W::tetO-TEF-URA3 HIS3::HIS3-LacI-GFP YDR259C::lacO- LEU2, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
Tub2-GFP	YPE257	Mata, ura3-52, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ1, lys2-801, ade2-661, ura3-52::TUB2-GFP-URA3	

Tub1-GFP SMC5-2KE	YEF1864	Mata, ura3-52, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ1, lys2-801, ade2-661, ura3-52::TUB1-GFP-URA3, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
Smc5-ndc80-1	YEF1928	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, can1::HphMX,ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX:: tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KanMX:: mCherry*-I-*Sce*I(cs), ndc80-1	This study
ndc80-1 Smc5-2KE	YEF1930	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661/,lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, yel053c ::KanMX:: tetO-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KanMX:: mCherry*-I-*Sce*I(cs), YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, ndc80-1	This study
L WT sDSB	YEF1203	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, can1::HphMX, YEL053C :: KANMX:: tetO-URA Chr IV 853996+854075:: KANMX:: mCherry*-I-*Sce*I(cs)	García-Fernandez *et al.*, 2022
L 2KE sDSB	YPE4131	Mat alpha, ura3Δ0, trp1Δ63, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, lys2Δ202, ade2-661, lys2::TetR-GFP-LYS2, can1::HPHMX, YEL053C::KanMX::tetO-URA, Chr IV 853996+854075:: KanMX:: mCherry*-I-*Sce*I(cs), YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E,	This study
C - DSB Local mobility	YPE4132	Mata,ura3Δ0,,leu2Δ0/,his3Δ1/, met15Δ0/,YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KanMX::mCherry*-I*Sce*I(cs), ymr008C::KanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, p2u-HIS3	This study
C + DSB Local mobility	YPE4133	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KANMX::mCherry*-I-*Sce*I(cs), ymr008C::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, pGALISceI-HIS3	This study

C 2KE - DSB Local mobility	YPE4136	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KanMX: mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ymr008C::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, p2u-HIS3	This study
C 2KE + DSB Local mobility	YPE4137	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959::KanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ymr008C::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, pGALISceI-HIS3	This study
L - DSB sDSB Local mobility	YPE4134	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::KanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ydr193w::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, p2u-HIS3	This study
L + DSB Local mobility	YPE4135	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::KanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ydr193w::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, pGALISceI-HIS3	This study
L 2KE - DSB Local mobility	YPE4138	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::KanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ydr193w::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, p2u-HIS3	This study
L 2KE + DSB Local mobility	YPE4139	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::KanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), ydr193w::kanMX::lacO-LEU2, LacI-HIS3, HIS3-STOP, pGALISceI-HIS3	This study
C - DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1922	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075:: kanMX::mCherry*-ISceI(cs), p2u-HIS3	This study
C + DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1923	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::kanMX:::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), pGALISceI-HIS3	This study

C 2KE - DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1934	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 :: kanMX :: mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), p2u-HIS3	This study
C 2KE + DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1925	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 453880+453959 :: kanMX :: mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), $P_{GAL1-10}$-I-*SceI*-HIS3	This study
L - DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1898	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075:: kanMX :: mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), p2u-HIS3	This study
L + DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1900	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::kanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), $P_{GAL1-10}$-I-*SceI*-HIS3	This study
L 2KE - DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1926	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::kanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), p2u-HIS3	This study
L 2KE + DSB ChIP-qPCR	YEF1920	Mata, ura3Δ0, leu2Δ0, his3Δ1, met15Δ0, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, YOL034W-13xMYC-URA3, Chr IV 853996+854075::kanMX::mCherry*-I-*SceI*(cs), $P_{GAL1-10}$-I-*SceI*-HIS3	This study
CEN-SPB	YEF1019	Mat a, his3Δ1 or his3Δ200, lys2Δ202 or 0, cenIV-tetO-URA3, lys2Δ202::tetR-GFP-LYS2 , SPC42-mCherry-HIS3	García-Fernandez *et al.,* 2021
CEN-SPB Smc5-2KE	YEF1691	Mat a, his3Δ1 or his3Δ200, lys2Δ202 or 0, cenIV-tetO-URA3, lys2Δ202::tetR-GFP-LYS2 , SPC42-mCherry-HIS3, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E	This study
Mtw1-3xGFP	YEF1017	Mat a, ura3-1, trp1-1, leu2Δ3,112, his3-11, can1-100, ade2-1, ura3::TUB1-CFP::URA3, YAL034W-A-3xGFP::HIS3, yil015w::KANMX	García-Fernandez *et al.,* 2021

Mtw1-3xGFP Smc5-2KE	YEF4025	Mat a, ura3-1, trp1-1, leu2Δ3,112, his3-11, can1-100, ade2-1, ura3::TUB1-CFP::URA3, YAL034W-A-3xGFP::HIS3, YOL034W::K624E, YOL034W::K631E, yil015w::KANMX	This study

1060 Table 2: primers used in this study

Gene / region	Primer	Sequence (5'→ 3')	Reference
gRNA 2KE	oACS13	CTGAAGGGCGAGATCAAGCgtttt	This study
	oACS14	CTCGTTGTGGGAGGTGATGTgatca	This study
Donor 2KE	oACS69	TCATGGGAATAGGTTAGTCGATATC**GAA**CAATCAGCATATGGTAGT**gaa**CAGGTCTTTCCTACTGACGTTAGTATTAAAC	This study
Donor 2KA	oACS97	TCATGGGAATAGGTTAGTCGATATC**GCG**CAATCAGCATATGGTAGT**GCG**CAAGTCTTTCCTACTGACGTTAGTATTAAAC	This study
Donor 2KR	oACS270	TCATGGGAATAGGTTAGTCGATATC**AGA**CAATCAGCATATGGTAGT**AGA**CAAGTCTTTCCTACTGACGTTAGTATTAAAC	This study
Smc5-MYC	oACS103	ATCCGAAGATGATACATTTCGGTGAAACTTCTAACTACTCATTCGAACGGATCCCCGGGttaattaa	This study
	oACS94	AAACATGTTTACATCTATATGTGTATAATTAATTATGCAATAGTGAAAGATGAATTCGAGCTCGTTTAAAC	This study
AID	oACS40	AGGATCCGAAGATGATACATTTCGGTGAAACTTCTAACTACTCATTCGATcgtacgctgcaggtcgac	This study
	oACS53	AAACATGTTTACATCTATATGTGTATAATTAATTATGCAATAGTGAAAGAatcgatgaattcgagctcg	This study
AFB2	oACS199	ACGCGCCGCTCACCCGCACGGCAGAGACCAATCAGTAAAAATCAACGGTTAATTCGGTCGAAAAAGAAA	This study

	oACS200	AGCTTACATTTTATGTTAGCTGGTGGACTGACGCCAGAAAATGTTGGTGATTAGAGAATCCACACAAATG	This study
KanMX R1	OEA177	ACTTGGTTGGCGTGTTTCGT	This study
	OEA178	GCGGTTGTTTGCAAGACCGA	This study
KanMX R2	OEA181	GTCAAGGGCGTGTTTGACGC	This study
	OEA182	ACGAATTTTGCTCCGGCAATTCT	This study
Cherry-I-SceI-cs	OEA310	TAGGATACAGTTCTCACATCACATCCGAACATAAACAACCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGA	This study
	OEA311	ATGACAAGTTCTTGAAAACAAGAATCTTTTTATTGTCAGTCTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATG	This study
gRNA HIS3	oACS13	GAGTGCGTTCAAGGCTCTTGgtttt	This study
	oACS14	CAAGAGCCTTGAACGCACTCgatca	This study
Donor HIS3	oACS69	GATTAACGTCCACACAGGTATAGGGTTTCTGGACCATATGATATAAGCTCTGGCCAAGCATTCCGGCTGGTCGCTAATCG	This study
R1 5 Kb		GGCAATTGAGGCCTTCTGGC	García Fernandez et al., 2021
		TGGTGGCCAACGATCCTTCA	
R1 10Kb	oACS136	AGCGGAATCAGGAGTGCAAAA	This study
	oACS137	TGGAAAAATGCATCTACAACCGCT	
	oACS138	GCCAAAGGTGTTTTCATTTGGAAGG	This study

R1 15 Kb	oACS139	ACCAGCACCTGACTCTCCCA	
R1 50 Kb		TTCTCCCTTGTCACCGCCACC	García Fernandez et al., 2021
		GGCCGCTCAAGTTAACGCCCA	
R1 150 Kb		TGGGAATCGTTTTATCCTTGTTTCGC	García Fernandez et al., 2021
		GTGAAGCAACCAACATAATGCCAG	
R2 5 Kb	oACS187	TGATTCCTCTGGGAGGCGCA	This study
	oACS188	TGACAGGTGCTCTAGTGTCCG	
R2 10 Kb	oACS189	CGAAGAAGACTTAATGGTGAAGGGT	This study
	oACS190	ACAGCCTGCAACCTTAACAGCA	
R2 15 Kb	oACS191	TCGAGGCTGGTGAAGAGAAACT	This study
	oACS192	AGTGCTATTTGGTCGGGGAGA	
R2 50 Kb	oACS193	ACTGGCCTGACATAGCCCTGA	This study
	oACS194	ACGCGAGGATTTTTGTTCGTGG	

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 Table 3: plasmids used in this study

Name	Marker	Features	Origin
pEF562	KANMX	Plasmid carrying Cas9 and a gRNA scaffold. gRNAs were introduced by digesting this plasmid with BplI.	[87]
pEF590	KANMX	Plasmid coming from the pEF562 carrying the gRNA to cut close to the SMC5-K631.	This study
pEF601	URA3	Plasmid carrying pFA6a-13MYC-URA3 used to introduce 13x MYC at the C-terminus of *SMC5*	P. Lesage
pEF222	LEU2	Plasmid carrying pTEF-tTEF-LEU2-LacO, used to integrate the LacO in the place of a KanMX	Therizols et al., 2010
pEF569	HIS3	Plasmid carrying LacI-GFP-HIS3, which was linearized with *NheI* to introduce LacI-GFP into *HIS3*	
pEF604	HIS3	Plasmid carrying the AFB2, which was linearized with *NheI* to introduce AFB2-URA3 into *URA3*.	T. Teixeira
pEF608	HIS3	Plasmid coming from the pJH2970 (Addgene, 100954) carrying the gRNA to cut close to the Smc5-K631.	This study
pB07	HIS3	Plasmid carrying the I-*Sce*I enzyme under GAL1-10 promoter	García-Fernandez et al 2022
pEF573	ADE2	Centromeric plasmid carrying the mCherry donor sequence, without the promoter and terminator.	García-Fernandez et al 2022

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

a Cycling → + Nocodazole (30 min) → Time-lapse microscopy

b Noc − / + ; WT ; smc5-2KE ; 3 µm

c WT ; smc5-2KE ; Time after nocodazole (min)

d 11 Kb ; 90 Kb ; 730 Kb

e *ndc80-1* 90 Kb 37ºC ; *ndc10-1* 90 Kb 37ºC

f

Cell phase	Tracked locus	Smc5 allele	MSD at 10 sec (10⁻²)	Alpha	D (10⁻³)	Cell number
Cycling + Nocodazole	11 kb	**WT**	3.83	0.62	2.19	760
		smc5-2KE	4.45	0.62	2.54	1474
	90 kb	**WT**	6.47	0.61	2.00	815
		smc5-2KE	6.58	0.60	2.70	925
	730 kb	**WT**	7.44	0.60	4.71	719
		smc5-2KE	7.63	0.58	5.07	1894
Cycling 37ºC	90 kb	**WT**	5.43	0.60	3.49	336
		ndc80-1	7.49	0.61	4.42	1165
		smc5-2KE	7.04	0.60	4.59	287
		ndc80-1 smc5-2KE	7.38	0.61	4.46	1210

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

a

SPB-SPB

Distance between mCherry dots

1 µm

CEN-SPB

Distance between GFP-Cherry dots

SPB-SPB CDF vs 2D distance (µm)
- WT
- *smc5-2KE*
***

CEN-SPB CDF vs 2D distance (µm)
- WT
- WT + zeo
- *smc5-2KE*
- *smc5-2KE* + zeo
ns   ***

b

Mtw1-3xGFP

5 µm

smc5-2KE
Mtw1-3xGFP

5 µm

% of cells: WT, WT Noc, 2KE, 2KE Noc
*   **
□ G1 □ S □ G2/M □ DM □ Dead

c

Clustered

2 µm

Mtw1-GFP

Declustered

2 µm

Centromere declustering (%)
**   ns   ns
Noc: −   −   +   +
      WT 2KE WT 2KE