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Specialisation of meiotic kinetochores revealed through a synthetic SAC strategy

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Abstract

Meiosis creates haploid gametes through two sequential M phases. While many studies have focused on meiosis I, the molecular events which drive and define meiosis II are largely unknown. Here, we report a novel cell synchronization strategy which allows for collection of yeast cells arrested at metaphase I or metaphase II, enabling better characterisation of meiosis II events. The method relies on chemically-inducible dimerization of ectopic copies of spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) proteins Mps1 and Spc105. Using this synthetic SAC (SynSAC) approach, we found that the SAC response is weaker in metaphase I compared to metaphase II and that the PP1 binding site within Spc105 contributes to restraining the MI SAC response. Furthermore, we demonstrate the utility of the SynSAC approach by analysing the composition and phosphorylation of kinetochores from metaphase I and metaphase II. This revealed an increase in the abundance of outer kinetochore proteins in meiotic metaphase I and reduced phosphorylation on metaphase II kinetochore proteins. Overall, we present the SynSAC method as a valuable tool for analysis of both meiotic metaphases.

Introduction

To make haploid gametes for sexual reproduction, diploid cells undergo meiosis which consists of a single round of DNA replication followed by two sequential chromosome segregation events, meiosis I and meiosis II. In meiosis I, maternal and paternal chromosomes, called homologs, separate, while in meiosis II, sister chromatids separate, similar to mitosis. To achieve this, the sister chromatids within each homolog are mono-oriented toward the same spindle pole in meiosis I but bi-oriented towards opposite poles in meiosis II. This requires that kinetochores, large protein complexes which connect chromosomes to spindle microtubules, must establish mono-orientation in meiosis I and then convert to bi-orientation in meiosis II. The sequential segregation of homologs and sister chromatids further rely on the step-wise loss of sister chromatid cohesion coupled to two consecutive rounds of spindle assembly and disassembly (reviewed in (Duro & Marston, 2015)). How these key cell biological events are established and coupled in meiosis to allow two distinct rounds of chromosome segregation without an intervening S phase is not well understood. In human oocytes, meiotic chromosome segregation is error-prone and aneuploidy is common (Gruhn & Hoffmann, 2022). Thus identifying molecular mechanisms which prevent improper chromosome segregation may help efforts to improve fertility.

A major barrier in defining molecular events that direct the two meiotic divisions is a lack of synchronization tools which allow collection of populations of cells at key meiotic stages. While mammalian oocytes naturally arrest in metaphase II, material is limited, which precludes biochemical analysis. *Xenopus* oocytes provide a powerful system for analysis of metaphase II extracts but isolation of pure metaphase I populations is challenging (Peshkin *et al*, 2025; Iwabuchi *et al*, 2000). Furthermore, identifying chromosome-related proteins in the comparatively large cytoplasmic volume of oocytes presents an additional impediment.

The ability to harvest large number of cells together with ease of genetic manipulation have made yeast outstanding tools for discovering the fundamental mechanisms of meiosis. However, compared to mitosis, our knowledge of meiotic chromosome segregation has lagged behind, in part due to a lack of robust synchronization systems. Nevertheless, recent advances allow reversible arrest of budding yeast at meiotic entry and prophase, allowing synchronous release into meiosis I, and subsequently meiosis II (Berchowitz *et al,* 2013; Chia & van Werven, 2016; Carlile & Amon, 2008). These systems have been used extensively, but the short time window between the divisions limits the ability to resolve pure meiosis I and II populations. Therefore, direct comparison of meiosis I and II has remained difficult to achieve in any system.

To overcome these challenges, we sought to establish a method that relies on
inducible inhibition of the Anaphase Promoting Complex (APC-Cdc20) in either meiosis I or
meiosis II. The APC-Cdc20 is a ubiquitin ligase that targets key substrates for degradation
including securin and cyclin B, which is required for progression into anaphase (Peters, 2006).
The requirement for the APC-Cdc20 at both meiosis I and II is well-established and placement
of the gene for the APC activator, CDC20, under control of a meiotically-repressed promoter
has been widely used to arrest budding yeast cells in metaphase I (Lee & Amon, 2003). This
system has also been adapted to allow re-expression of CDC20 and synchronous meiosis II
entry (Argüello-Miranda et al, 2017) as well as re-expression of the cdc20-3 temperature
sensitive allele to enable collection of metaphase II cells (Mengoli et al, 2021). However, the
reliance on transcriptional control and temperature shift results in a slower response than
desirable. Therefore, no tools currently exist to quickly and reliably enrich budding yeast cell
populations in meiosis II.

The APC-Cdc20 is a natural target of the spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC), a
signalling cascade that prevents anaphase when chromosomes are not properly attached to
the spindle (McAinsh & Kops, 2023). The SAC is initiated at improperly attached kinetochores
when the kinase Mps1 phosphorylates the kinetochore protein Spc105[KNL1]. This
phosphorylation recruits the checkpoint proteins Bub3/Bub1 and then Mad1/Mad2 to the
kinetochore. Within this kinetochore complex, Mad2 is converted from the open to closed
conformation and C-Mad2 associates with Mad3[BubR1], Bub3, and Cdc20 to form the mitotic
checkpoint complex (MCC), a diffusible inhibitor of the anaphase promoting complex (APC).
Sustained SAC activation, resulting in prometaphase arrest, can be induced experimentally
by perturbing kinetochore-microtubule interactions, for example by treatment with
microtubule-depolymerizing drugs, and this method has been used extensively in mitotic cells.
However, meiotic cells respond poorly to such drugs, likely due to a combination of impaired
uptake, toxicity and a weakened checkpoint (Hochwagen et al, 2005; MacKenzie et al, 2023).
Moreover, such treatments are unsuitable for analysis of kinetochore function since they
ablate microtubule interactions and convert kinetochores into a signalling platform, thereby
changing their composition and properties.

An alternative approach to arrest cells in either metaphase I or II would induce SAC-
dependent APC-Cdc20 inhibition without perturbing kinetochores. Mechanistic studies in
fission yeast and human cells have achieved inducible activation of the SAC through
conditional dimerization of Mps1 kinase and Spc105[KNL1] (Aravamudhan et al, 2015; Amin et
al, 2018; Leontiou et al, 2019; Chen et al, 2019). Here, we adapted this approach to arrest
cells in either metaphase I or metaphase II of meiosis. We demonstrate that induced

dimerization of Mps1 and Spc105[KNL1] engineered to lack their kinetochore-targeting domains

efficiently arrests cells in either metaphase I or metaphase II, in addition to mitotic metaphase.

This synthetic SAC (SynSAC)-dependent arrest relies on the same downstream signalling

cascade required for APC-Cdc20 inhibition during mitotic division, culminating in stabilization

of the anaphase inhibitor Pds1[securin]. We find that the SynSAC arrest is more potent in

metaphase II than metaphase I, and provide evidence that protein phosphatase 1 (PP1) limits

the duration of the SAC-mediated metaphase I delay. To demonstrate the utility of our SynSAC

approach, we purified kinetochores from metaphase I, metaphase II, and mitotic metaphase

SynSAC cells and analysed their composition and phosphorylation using mass spectrometry.

This provided evidence that the relative enrichment of purified core kinetochore sub-

complexes changes in meiotic metaphase I and II compared to mitotic metaphase, and that

overall kinetochore phosphorylation is reduced in metaphase II. Therefore, by developing

SynSAC as a meiotic interrogation tool we have generated a comprehensive dataset of

kinetochore composition and phosphorylation, a key resource to uncover the critical

specializations that direct distinct segregation events in meiosis I and II.

Results

A synthetic SAC prolongs metaphase I or metaphase II

We sought to activate the SAC to arrest cells in metaphase without disrupting kinetochores.

Thus, we constructed a yeast strain which has an additional, ectopic copy of each of Spc105

and Mps1 lacking their kinetochore-binding domains and which can be inducibly dimerised.

To temporally separate populations of cells undergoing meiosis I vs meiosis II, this strain also

carried inducible *NDT80*, which allows synchronous release from prophase arrest upon

addition of b-estradiol (Carlile & Amon, 2008). To induce dimerization, we used the PYL and

ABI tags, which dimerise in the presence of the plant hormone abscisic acid (ABA) (Liang *et*

al, 2011; Miyazono *et al*, 2009). This system is particularly advantageous compared with the

widely used rapamycin-inducible dimerization system because it cannot affect endogenous

mTOR signalling, nor does it require background mutations to avoid toxicity. Spc105 lacking

its C-terminal kinetochore localization domain (Petrovic *et al*, 2014; Ghodgaonkar-Steger *et*

al, 2020; Roy *et al*, 2022; Maskell *et al*, 2010), and tagged with PYL, was produced from its

endogenous promoter (Spc105$^{(1-455)}$-PYL). Similarly, the C-terminal kinase domain of Mps1,

also under the control of its native promoter and lacking the N-terminal disordered domain

which mediates its kinetochore localization, was fused to ABI (Mps1$^{(440-765)}$-ABI) (Figure

1A)(Araki *et al*, 2010). As expected, spore viability of this "SynSAC" strain after prophase

release was comparable to that of a strain lacking the ABI/PYL tagged truncations, indicating

that meiosis was not impaired by these constructs (Figure 1B).

Following prophase release in the absence of ABA, metaphase I and metaphase II cell

populations peak at approximately 75 and 120 min, respectively, as determined by spindle

morphology (Figure 1C). Addition of abscisic acid (ABA) at prophase release extended

metaphase I by 15 minutes and metaphase II by 30 minutes (Figure 1C). This suggested that

conditional dimerization of Spc105$^{(1-455)}$-PYL and Mps1$^{(440-765)}$-ABI is sufficient to activate the

SAC and delay cells in either metaphase I or metaphase II. To delay cells specifically at

metaphase II, we added ABA at 100 minutes after prophase release, corresponding to the

anaphase I peak according to spindle morphology, and this resulted in a pronounced (60 min)

metaphase II delay (Figure 1C).

To confirm that the delay in cell cycle progression was dependent on the canonical

spindle checkpoint cascade, we tested whether the SynSAC-induced metaphase delays

required downstream SAC proteins. Unlike the control SynSAC strain, we observed no delays

in the metaphase to anaphase transitions when Mad1, Mad2, or Mad3 were absent (Figure

1D). Similarly, SynSAC dimerization after meiosis I did not delay cells in metaphase II in the

absence of the SAC proteins (Supp Figure 1A). Therefore, both meiotic metaphase delays

induced by dimerization of Mps1$^{(440-765)}$-ABI and Spc105$^{(1-455)}$-PYL are dependent on known

downstream SAC components. We conclude that SynSAC can induce a delay in both

metaphase I and metaphase II.

Metaphase I, metaphase II and mitotic metaphase show differential sensitivity to

SynSAC

We noticed that SynSAC induced a more pronounced delay in metaphase II than metaphase

I (Figure 1C and D; Supp Figure 1). Furthermore, both the metaphase I and metaphase II

arrests were transient and cells subsequently underwent both meiotic divisions to produce

spores, even in the presence of ABA. In contrast, SynSAC induced a robust mitotic metaphase

arrest and checkpoint-dependent growth inhibition (Supp Figure 2A and B). This is in

accordance with findings in yeast and vertebrates which have suggested that the SAC is less

robust in meiosis I compared to either mitotic metaphase or metaphase II (Gui & Homer, 2012;

Nagaoka *et al*, 2011; Kolano *et al*, 2012; Lane *et al*, 2012; MacKenzie *et al*, 2023; Sebestova

et al, 2012). However, since these previous observations rely on methods which perturb

kinetochore-microtubule attachments, it has remained unclear whether this difference stems

from reduced SAC signalling or a dampened response. Our finding that SynSAC, which

uncouples signal generation from the response, induces a graded effect, demonstrates that
meiosis I and to a lesser extent meiosis II have a reduced response to checkpoint signalling.

To explore the differences between the meiosis I and II SAC responses further, we
analysed the effects of SynSAC on downstream signalling events. The SAC inhibits the APC-
Cdc20 from targeting the anaphase inhibitor securin for degradation. Therefore, we monitored
Pds1^{securin} degradation as a readout for APC-Cdc20 activity in the SynSAC strain. Without
ABA-induced dimerization, Pds1^{securin} levels decreased along with the appearance of
anaphase I spindles at 90 minutes after prophase release, re-accumulated at 105 minutes,
then decreased again at 135 minutes when anaphase II spindles appeared (Figure 2A).
Addition of abscisic acid (ABA) at the time of prophase release slightly attenuated the
decrease in Pds1^{securin} levels at 90 minutes, consistent with induction of a modest metaphase
I delay. As before, spindle morphology indicated a more pronounced metaphase II delay
compared to metaphase I, and, consistently, Pds1^{securin} remained stabilised even after
metaphase II spindle disappearance at 165 minutes (Figure 2B). Therefore, SynSAC
activation prior to metaphase I stabilises Pds1^{securin} with the greatest effect in meiosis II. When
ABA was added after metaphase I at 100 minutes after release, Pds1^{securin} levels similarly
remained high until the end of the timecourse and after spindle disassembly (Figure 2C).
Together, these findings suggest that activation of the SynSAC in meiosis delays metaphase
I and II by preventing Pds1^{securin} degradation. Interestingly, although SynSAC induces a longer
delay in metaphase II compared to metaphase I, in both cases the delay is transient and
accompanied by Pds1^{securin} persistence.

One possibility for the extended delay in metaphase I compared to metaphase II could
be differential protein expression in the two divisions. To test this, we assessed the levels of
the SynSAC dimerising proteins by Western blotting. Both full length endogenous and the C-
terminal SynSAC fragment of Mps1 were tagged with 3V5 for direct comparison, which
revealed increased expression of Mps1$^{(440-765)}$-ABI-3V5 compared to Mps1-V5 (Supp Figure
3A- B), consistent with the presence of a degron in the N-terminal domain of Mps1 (Palframan
et al, 2006). However, levels of the SynSAC Mps1$^{(440-765)}$-ABI-3V5 fragment were relatively
consistent throughout meiosis I and II (Supp Figure 3A-B). Similarly, FLAG-tagging of both full
length endogenous Spc105 and Spc105$^{(1-455)}$-PYL indicated that protein levels were
equivalent across the two divisions (Supp Figure 3C-D). Thus, differences in the abundance
of the SynSAC dimerising constructs cannot account for the longer delay in metaphase I
compared to metaphase II.

Finally, the transience of the SynSAC delay at both metaphase I and metaphase II
raised the question of whether escape into anaphase I and II was associated with accurate

chromosome segregation. We further sought to confirm that the SynSAC constructs we
engineered to avoid kinetochore localisation did indeed not disrupt kinetochore function. To
test this, SynSAC strains were allowed to complete sporulation in the presence of ABA and
spore viability was measured. If kinetochores or chromosome segregation were significantly
disrupted by the delayed meiotic cell cycle, spores would inherit the incorrect number of
chromosomes and be inviable. However, spore viability after SynSAC dimerization, either
before metaphase I or specifically in metaphase II, was not significantly different from wild
type (Supp Figure 2C). Therefore, SynSAC does not disrupt chromosome segregation and
provides a powerful tool to study meiotic metaphase.

PP1 binding to Spc105 limits SAC-induced metaphase delay in meiosis

Why does SynSAC induce a more potent arrest in metaphase II compared to metaphase I?
One possibility is that checkpoint silencing mechanisms are especially active in meiosis I and
could contribute to a rapid reversal of the checkpoint activity. A key event in checkpoint
silencing is the docking of Protein Phosphatase 1 (PP1; Glc7 in yeast) onto two consensus
motifs in the N-terminal region of Spc105, leading to the dephosphorylation of Spc105 and the
disassembly of the SAC signalling platform (Rosenberg *et al*, 2011; Roy *et al*, 2019). Analysis
of mitotic cells indicated that the RVxF motif is the primary PP1 docking motif and that the
SILK motif (GILK in budding yeast) plays an auxiliary role (Rosenberg *et al,* 2011; Roy *et al*,
2019). To test whether PP1 binding to Spc105 regulates the duration of the SynSAC delay in
meiosis, we created strains in which the dimerizing copy of Spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-PYL in the SynSAC
strain background had mutations in the RVxF and SILK motifs that would prevent PP1 binding.
We mutated either the SILK motif, creating *spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-4A-PYL*, or the RVSF motif, creating
spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-RASA-PYL, and additionally generated *spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-4A-RASA* which has both
PP1-binding motifs mutated. We also made the *spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-RVAF* mutant in which S77 within
the RVSF motif is mutated to alanine, to block potential Ipl1$^{Aurora\ B}$ phosphorylation of this site.
In human cells, Aurora B-dependent phosphorylation of KNL1S^{Spc105} within the RVSF motif
appears to prevent PP1 binding (Liu *et al,* 2010). However, the phospho-null RVAF mutant
does not impact growth of budding yeast, suggesting it may not have as much importance in
this organism (Rosenberg *et al*, 2011; Roy *et al*, 2019).

In the absence of ABA, mutation of the PP1 binding sites in the SynSAC construct did
not affect meiotic progression or spore viability (Supp Fig 4A and B), nor did they compromise
mitotic growth (Supp Figure 4C). However, activating the SynSAC by adding ABA at the time
of prophase release resulted in a metaphase I delay of varying duration depending on the
status of the PP1-binding motifs (Figure 3A). Mutation of the SILK motif (*spc105$^{(1\text{-}455)}$-4A*) did

not detectably alter the 15-30 min metaphase I delay observed for the wild-type SynSAC (Figure 3A), consistent with the notion that this motif is less important. However, preventing PP1 binding to the RVxF motif (*spc105^(1-455)-RASA*) extended the duration of the SynSAC-induced metaphase I delay considerably and mutation of both PP1 binding motifs (*spc105^(1-455)-4A-RASA*) led to an even more pronounced delay, with metaphase I cells persisting until the end of the timecourse (Figure 3A). Conversely, mutation of the potential Ipl1^Aurora B-dependent kinase site (*spc105^(1-455)-RVAF*), which is predicted to increase PP1 binding and thereby promote checkpoint silencing, modestly decreased the duration of the metaphase I delay (Figure 3A). Taken together, these findings indicate that PP1 binding to Spc105 dampens the SynSAC response in meiosis I and that both PP1 binding motifs play a role, with the RVxF motif being the primary binding site.

To test whether the duration of the metaphase II delay is also affected by the ability of PP1 to bind Spc105, we repeated the above experiment except ABA was added only at the time of anaphase I. As for metaphase I, preventing PP1 binding to Spc105 increased the duration of SynSAC-induced metaphase II, with the different mutations showing a gradient of effects (Figure 3B). The strongest metaphase II delay was observed with the *spc105^(1-455)-4A-RASA* construct, with the *spc105^(1-455)-RASA* mutant alone also extending metaphase II compared to the wild-type, as judged by the absence of anaphase II cells. Mutation of the SILK motif (*spc105^(1-455)-4A*) caused a modest additional 15 minutes delay. However, we observed no detectable effect of mutating the potential Ipl1^Aurora B site on the SynSAC metaphase II delay (Figure 3B). Overall, these results indicate that PP1 binding to the RVxF motif, and to a lesser extent the SILK motif, on Spc105 affects the duration of the metaphase to anaphase transition in both meiosis I and II. Interestingly, the effect on metaphase I appears more striking, potentially suggesting increased PP1-dependent SAC silencing activity in meiosis I.

Kinetochore composition changes at meiotic prophase, metaphase I, and metaphase II
The SynSAC system we developed allows robust isolation of populations of both metaphase I and metaphase II cells from the same strain, providing the first opportunity for biochemical comparisons between these stages. As proof-of-principle, we analysed kinetochores, which must be modified to achieve distinct functions during meiosis. Indeed, previous work has established a dramatic remodelling of kinetochore composition between meiotic prophase and meiosis I (Meyer *et al*, 2015; Borek *et al*, 2021). However, the lack of a suitable arrest system precluded analysis of meiosis II. Since kinetochores undergo a configuration switch from mono-oriented in meiosis I to bi-oriented in meiosis II to direct the successive segregation of

homologs and sister chromatids, direct comparison of meiosis I and meiosis II kinetochores is an important goal. We exploited our newly developed SynSAC system to determine kinetochore composition at metaphase I and metaphase II, together with mitotic metaphase and meiotic prophase for comparison. To do so, we purified kinetochores via immunoprecipitation of the central kinetochore protein Dsn1 and used mass spectrometry to analyse their composition (Akiyoshi *et al*, 2010; Sarangapani *et al*, 2014; Borek *et al*, 2021). Metaphase arrests were confirmed by spindle immunofluorescence (Supp Fig 5A) and silver staining indicated broadly similar purifications across replicates and cell cycle stages (Supp Fig 5B).

To determine kinetochore composition, we used data independent acquisition (DIA) mass spectrometry. Due to the high sensitivity of this method, thousands of proteins were quantified in each of three replicate immunoprecipitations from each stage (Supp Figure 6A) and 2,415 quantified proteins were common to all three replicates of the Dsn1-His-FLAG IPs from all 4 cell cycle stages (Supp Figure 6A-B). As expected, Dsn1 and other components of the core kinetochore structure, especially other members of the KMN (KNL1[Spc105]-Mis12[MIND]-Ndc80) network were most enriched compared to the untagged control immunoprecipitations (Supp Fig 6C-D). To better quantify differences in kinetochore protein abundances between the different cell cycle stages, we scaled all protein abundances to the level of Dsn1 quantified in each individual sample (Supp Fig 7A-D). As expected, the abundance of most kinetochore proteins was slightly lower than the bait protein Dsn1 in *DSN1-His-Flag* ("tag") samples, but not in the *DSN1* negative control immunoprecipitations ("no tag") (Supp Fig 7D). Overall, there was an increased amount of quantified protein in the prophase and metaphase I kinetochore ("tag") samples compared to the metaphase II and mitotic metaphase samples (Supp Fig 7E). Although this difference was not significant when the levels of known kinetochore proteins were compared (Supp Fig 7F), it is possible that it reflects increased stability of protein-protein interactions with the kinetochore in prophase and metaphase I.

Next, we performed pair-wise comparisons to identify which proteins, relative to Dsn1, were the most different in abundance between cell cycle stages (Supp Fig 8). In addition, we used GO term analysis to identify shared functions among the top 50 non-kinetochore proteins associated with the Dsn1 immunoprecipitate at each stage (Supp Fig 9A). At prophase, proteins involved in chromosome pairing, recombination, and respiration were strongly associated with kinetochores (Supp Fig 9A-B). At metaphase I, chromosome organization, spindle pole body, and spindle organization proteins were enriched. The enrichment of many chromatin-associated factors, e.g. histones and chromatin remodeling complexes, with metaphase I, but not metaphase II kinetochores (Supp Fig 9B) is consistent with closer

association of kinetochores with chromatin in the mono-oriented vs bi-oriented state. At metaphase II, sporulation and spore wall proteins became enriched (Supp Fig 9A-B). Mitotic kinetochores were associated with nucleolar, ribosome, and nuclear envelope proteins (Supp Fig 9A-B). Together, these associations underscore the dynamic nature of kinetochore protein interactions. Further, it suggests that the kinetochore may serve as a platform to direct cell cycle stage-specific signalling such as promoting recombination at meiotic prophase, specialised kinetochore-spindle associations at metaphase I and instigating meiotic-exit processes such as spore wall formation in metaphase II.

Beyond identifying novel protein interactions, we aimed to determine whether there were significant changes in the kinetochore composition itself at the different stages, relative to Dsn1. Across the 4 stages, we were able to quantify ~70 known kinetochore proteins (Figure 4A). As expected, proteins within the KMN network were most abundant, while proteins at the inner or outer edges of the complex, or only transiently associated, were less abundant. Comparing protein abundances grouped by sub-complex or function at each stage indicated that inner kinetochore CCAN proteins were reduced at meiotic metaphase I and II compared to prophase or mitotic metaphase, although the trend was not significant, while outer kinetochore Dam1 complex proteins showed the reverse trend (Figure 4A-B). It is possible that meiotic kinetochores are enriched in outer kinetochore complexes to facilitate the challenge of capturing homologs in meiosis I. Alternatively, inner kinetochore protein interactions may be weakened in the two meiotic metaphases, while outer kinetochore interactions are better preserved during the purification. As expected, there was a significant depletion of the Ndc80 and Dam1 complex proteins from kinetochores in prophase, in agreement with previous observations (Miller *et al*, 2012; Chen *et al*, 2020; Hayashi *et al*, 2006; Meyer *et al*, 2015) (Figure 4A-B).

Within the diverse kinetochore "accessory" group, the strongest changes were an enrichment of Glc7^{PP1} phosphatase regulator Fin1 at meiotic metaphase I and II, as well as an enrichment in Glc7^{PP1} phosphatase at prophase. Additionally, proteins with known functions in mono-orientation such as monopolin complex proteins Csm1 and Mam1 had higher abundance or were exclusively detected in metaphase I but not metaphase II kinetochores. SAC and CPC protein abundance on kinetochores was largely comparable in all stages, other than a depletion in Mps1 levels at prophase, which likely reflects the fact that this is the only condition in which SynSAC was not induced. Finally, microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs) were relatively depleted from mitotic kinetochores and the Bik1$^{CLIP-170}$ microtubule plus-end tracking protein was particularly enriched on metaphase I and metaphase II kinetochores, consistent with the general increase in abundance of the

microtubule-binding components of the outer kinetochore in these purifications (Figure 4A-B).
Together, our results reveal that although the levels of most core kinetochore proteins are
relatively stable at different cell cycle stages, there are significant differences. Notably, there
is a loss of outer kinetochore proteins at prophase, a depletion in some inner kinetochore
protein interactions at meiotic metaphase vs mitotic, and an increase in outer kinetochore
protein levels at metaphase I, and also to some extent at metaphase II.

Reduced phosphorylation of kinetochores at metaphase II

Protein composition changes are only partially responsible for the distinct behaviour of
kinetochores in meiosis I and meiosis II. Indeed, multiple kinases are known to contribute (Lee
& Amon, 2003; Clyne *et al*, 2003; Petronczki *et al*, 2006; Matos *et al*, 2008; Lo *et al*, 2008),
indicating that phosphorylation is a key mechanism driving these changes. However, a global
picture of phosphorylation changes at the kinetochore is lacking. This is challenging because
phospho-peptides are relatively low in abundance and recovery of sufficient quantities of
protein from highly synchronised cells is especially important to detect changes between
stages. Our SynSAC approach makes this possible because large quantities of highly
synchronised cells can be collected within a single experiment.

To this end, 95% of the eluates from the kinetochore purifications above were
subjected to phospho-peptide enrichment and DIA-MS. Thus, alongside quantification of the
kinetochore-associated proteome as described above, we obtained matched phospho-
proteomic datasets for each sample. Overall, we identified 4,480 phosphorylation sites
("phospho-sites") on 1,614 proteins with 99% confidence. The abundance of each phospho-
site was normalised to the total abundance of the corresponding protein quantified in the non-
phospho-enriched fraction of the sample. This more accurately identifies dynamic
phosphorylation, rather than protein abundance. Additionally, we filtered the dataset to
analyse only those phospho-sites which were identified in all replicates of at least one sample
type. With these metrics, we quantified ~1,500 phosphorylation sites on meiotic prophase and
meiotic metaphase I kinetochores and ~700-1,100 phospho-sites on meiotic metaphase II and
mitotic metaphase kinetochores (Supp Fig 10A). As expected, many phosphorylation sites
were stage-specific, with 177 sites identified in all replicates of all stages (Supp Fig 10B).

We performed GO term enrichment analysis to look for shared functions among the
phospho-proteins most abundant in the kinetochore purifications. This was done with the top
50 most abundant phospho-proteins which are not known kinetochore proteins, in order to
identify alternative processes. At prophase, phospho-proteins involved in chromosome
organization, double-strand break repair, and transcription were associated with kinetochores

(Supp Fig 10C). Similarly, metaphase I phospho-proteins were involved in chromatin
remodeling, chromosome organization, and gene expression. At metaphase II, phospho-
proteins involved in cell cycle regulation, sexual reproduction, and spindle pole body
organization were enriched (Supp Fig 10C). Finally, mitotic metaphase phospho-proteins were
involved in the microtubule cytoskeleton, nucleus organization, and regulation of transcription.
Overall, the temporal trends seen in the GO term analysis are apparent in ranked lists of the
most abundant non-kinetochore phospho-sites for each stage comparison (Supp Fig 10D).

To determine whether there were general trends in the total level of phosphorylation,
we analysed the distribution of kinetochore phospho-site abundances at the 4 different stages
(Figure 5A). The number of phospho-sites on known kinetochore proteins was around ~100
at each stage however the median level of phosphorylation was higher in meiotic prophase
and metaphase I than it was in metaphase II and mitotic metaphase (Figure 5A). This suggests
that kinetochores are subject to essential phosphorylation in meiosis I and that either
phosphatase activity increases, or kinase activity towards kinetochores decreases at
metaphase II. Interestingly, the total abundance of phosphorylation on kinetochores was very
similar between metaphase II and mitotic metaphase, suggesting that the increased level of
kinetochore phosphorylation is characteristic of meiosis I.

We next asked whether these phosphorylation events were focused on specific
kinetochore sub-complexes or functional groups. The CCAN and KMN subcomplexes
contained the most phosphorylation sites, while relatively few sites were mapped to the Cbf3
complex and MAPs (Figure 5A). The levels of phosphorylation on the CCAN and KMN
subcomplexes were highest in prophase and metaphase I, and lower in metaphase II and
mitotic metaphase, mirroring the trend seen for all kinetochore sites. Interestingly, there
appeared to be increased phosphorylation on outer kinetochore Dam1 complex proteins in
metaphase I vs II, and overall higher phosphorylation in meiosis vs mitosis. Since Dam1
complex proteins are known targets of error correction kinases Ipl1$^{Aurora\ B}$ and Mps1, this may
suggest increased error correction in meiosis vs mitosis. To identify which kinetochore
proteins were most phosphorylated, we calculated the sum of the abundance of all
phosphorylation sites on individual kinetochore proteins at each stage, and then ranked the
proteins based on the total sum from all stages (Figure 5B). This revealed that Spc105, Bir1,
Lrs4, Sli15, Dsn1, Okp1 and Ame1 were the most heavily phosphorylated kinetochore
proteins. Additionally, we determined the maximum range in abundance between cell cycle
stages for each phospho-site within each protein. This revealed that Mif2^{CENP-C}, Dsn1, Cin8^{Kif11},
Okp1^{CENP-Q}, and Cse4^{CENP-A} have highly dynamic phosphorylation sites (Figure 5C).

Finally, we highlight several individual phospho-sites with interesting trends (Figure

5D). Slk19[CENP-F] regulates both spindle stability and mitotic/meiotic exit (Marston *et al*, 2003;

Stegmeier *et al*, 2002; Buonomo *et al*, 2003; Sullivan *et al*, 2001). We found that

phosphorylation of Slk19-S-23, in part of the protein involved in meiotic exit (Havens *et al*,

2010), is reduced in metaphase II. In mitosis, phosphorylation of the N-terminus of Ndc80 by

Ipl1[Aurora B] promotes detachment of kinetochores from microtubules, allowing for correction of

erroneous attachments (Pinsky *et al*, 2006; Akiyoshi *et al*, 2009; Sarangapani *et al*, 2013); in

meiosis, Ipl1[Aurora B] phosphorylation of an overlapping set of sites, including T54, destabilizes

Ndc80 protein levels in prophase, contributing to the loss of outer kinetochore proteins at this

time (Chen *et al*, 2020). Consistent with this, we observed significantly more phosphorylation

of Ndc80-T-54 on purified kinetochores in meiotic prophase and metaphase I (Figure 5D).

Dsn1-S-69 is found very close to where the monopolin complex that directs mono-orientation

in meiosis I is thought to bind (residues 72-110) (Sarkar *et al*, 2013; Plowman *et al*, 2019). We

observed greatest phosphorylation of Dsn1-S-69 in prophase and metaphase I, the time when

kinetochores prepare for mono-orientation, suggesting it may be a functionally important

modification (Figure 5D). Finally, we found that S70 phosphorylation on inner kinetochore

protein Okp1[CENP-Q], a likely Cdk substrate (Holt *et al*, 2009), is reduced at metaphase II.

To uncover trends in types of kinase activity directed towards kinetochore proteins,

we conducted motif analysis on phospho-sites at different cell cycle stages. Of the nearly 100

kinetochore phosphorylation sites identified, the most prominent trend was for a proline

residue at the +1 position from the phospho-acceptor site, which is a known motif recognised

by cyclin-dependent kinase (Cdk) (Figure 6A). Next, we analysed how many of the kinetochore

phospho-sites at each stage matched a panel of known kinase consensus motifs. The trends

were weak suggesting common types of kinase activity at the different stages, however, there

was a slight preference for the strict Cdk or Ipl1[Aurora B] kinase consensus motif among prophase

phospho-sites compared with the other stages (Figure 6B). Additionally, fewer sites matching

the Ipl1[Aurora B] motif were found in meiotic metaphase I and II (Figure 6B), which may suggest

that Ipl1[Aurora B] activity is reduced at these times. Indeed, we would anticipate that the prolonged

SynSAC arrest allows for robust chromosomal alignment and minimal requirement for Ipl1[Aurora

B]-dependent error-correction. We previously found that, globally, Cdc5[Polo] kinase promotes

phosphorylation of a more stringent motif of [DEN]x[ST]*F specifically in meiotic metaphase I

(Koch *et al*, 2024). We found that this trend also applies to kinetochores since the number of

phosphorylation sites on kinetochore proteins that match this motif was also highest at

metaphase I (Figure 6B). Finally, there was no stage-specific enrichment of the motif

recognised by the DDK kinase Cdc7, known to function in DNA damage repair and

homologous recombination in prophase (Figure 6B), suggesting that its activity is widespread

through mitosis and meiosis, or that other kinases can recognise these sites.

Given that the minimal Cdk and Cdc5^{Polo} kinase motifs were common among

kinetochore phospho-sites, we also analysed whether these sites were preferentially located

within specific sub-complexes. For Cdc5^{Polo} motif sites, this revealed a slight enrichment within

the outer kinetochore complexes KMN and Dam1c compared with the inner kinetochore

CCAN sub-complex, and this trend was most prominent at metaphase II and mitosis (Figure

6C). Conversely, at all stages there was an enrichment for Cdk motif sites within the inner

kinetochore CCAN complex vs the outer kinetochore KMN and Dam1 sub-complexes. Finally,

we reveal the identities of individual Cdc5^{Polo} and Cdk motif phospho-sites across the core

kinetochore (Figure 6D). There was a range of different trends, with some sites being

phosphorylated relatively equally across stages while others appeared enriched at specific

stages. Together, this dataset provides a strong basis for identifying phosphorylation sites

which may have key stage-specific roles such as directing mono-orientation in meiosis I and

biorientation in meiosis II.

Discussion

Mitosis, meiosis I and meiosis II involve distinct segregation events, each with specific

modifications to chromosome structure and orientation that must function in the context of a

unique cell cycle programme. Understanding these changes biochemically relies on the ability

to harvest cells at these distinct cell cycle stages for direct comparisons. Until now, meiosis II

has been particularly elusive since robust methods to arrest budding yeast cells in this stage

been lacking. However, meiosis II is of key interest: although it is often referred to as

"resembling mitosis", there are crucial differences since it occurs directly after another M

phase, meiosis I, and is followed by gamete formation. Here, we developed the SynSAC

system to overcome this limitation. SynSAC uses the same yeast strain to arrest cells in

metaphase of mitosis, meiosis I or meiosis II, allowing direct comparisons. This system could

be applied to interrogate changes in any cellular process or protein complex at these distinct

cell cycle stages. Here, as proof of principle, we determined the changes in protein

composition and phosphorylation abundance at kinetochores. Our findings develop a new tool

for meiotic investigations, provide key insights into meiotic regulation by SAC activation and

additionally generate an important resource that provides key insight into how kinetochores

are adapted at different cell cycle stages.

A simple method to arrest yeast cells at metaphase II

We found that inducible dimerization of fragments of Spc105 and Mps1 upon prophase
release or during anaphase I allows for robust synchronization at metaphase I or II of meiosis,
respectively (Figure 1). Since the meiotic SynSAC method relies on two drug-inducible events
and does not require media washout steps, it greatly simplifies and improves recovery of
metaphase cells. SynSAC is also conditional, allowing the arrest to be induced only at the
desired time. This is in contrast to previous studies which have isolated metaphase I cells
through repressing transcription of *CDC20* (Lee & Amon, 2003), where loss of the Cdc20
protein may have secondary effects. Thus, by relying on relatively quick chemical reactions
and achieving arrest without reducing protein levels, the SynSAC method may more
accurately reflect the metaphase state.

PP1 restricts the duration of SAC signalling in metaphase I
Interestingly, the duration of SynSAC-mediated delay is consistently shorter in meiosis I vs II,
despite equivalent protein level of the dimerizing construct. Microtubule-depolymerising drugs
also cause a shorter SAC delay in meiosis I compared to either meiosis II or mitosis
(MacKenzie *et al*, 2023). The differential sensitivity of cells to SynSAC in meiosis I and II
suggests that this is an intrinsic difference between the two divisions. Previous work has
established a role for PP1 in prematurely silencing the SAC in meiosis I in the presence of
improperly attached kinetochores (MacKenzie *et al*, 2023). Our work similarly implicates PP1
binding to Spc105 as being responsible for limiting the duration of the SynSAC arrest in
meiosis I. We discovered that mutation of either the conserved RVxF or the GILK motif does
indeed lengthen the duration of the metaphase I SynSAC arrest, with the strongest effect seen
when both mutations are present. This suggests that PP1 binding to these motifs may promote
Spc105 dephosphorylation and SAC silencing in metaphase I. Our system also allowed us to
directly test the effect of PP1 binding mutants in metaphase II, however we observed only
minor additional delays when PP1 binding to Spc105 was prevented. Together, these
observations suggest that PP1 activity is more prominent at metaphase I. How this relates to
the unique segregation pattern in this division where homologs, rather than sister chromatids,
are segregated is an important area of investigation for the future.
The stronger and more prolonged SynSAC arrest obtained using the PP1 binding site
mutant *spc105^{1-455}-4A-RASA* prompts its consideration as an alternative tool for future studies,
particular where meiosis I arrest is important. However, in the current study we found that the
wild type SynSAC protein fragments without these mutations yielded highly enriched
populations of metaphase I and II cells and reliable detection of kinetochore proteins and
phosphorylations expected to be specific to those stages.

Some inner kinetochore proteins are lost while outer kinetochore proteins are increased in meiosis vs mitosis

We applied SynSAC to understand changes in composition of the kinetochore by quantitative proteomic analysis. Prior work used Dsn1 kinetochore immunoprecipitations and minichromosome purifications to compare kinetochore and centromere composition in mitosis, prophase I and metaphase I (Borek *et al*, 2021). However, analysis of purified metaphase II kinetochores was previously inaccessible and our application of high-sensitivity DIA mass spectrometry, together with matched phosphorylation analysis, provides a more complete picture overall. Our dataset of kinetochore composition from four stages: (1) mitotic metaphase I; (2) meiotic prophase 1; (3) metaphase I and (4) metaphase II therefore greatly extends our understanding of how kinetochores change during meiosis. Consistent with remodelling reported in our earlier study (Borek *et al*, 2021), we reveal a change in the stoichiometry of sub-complexes relative to each other, dependent on cell cycle stage. For example, the inner kinetochore CCAN is less abundant at meiotic metaphase I and II compared with mitosis and prophase (Figure 4A). The mechanisms underlying the lower abundance of CCAN proteins, which notably include some of the most essential DNA-contacting proteins such as the Cse4^{CENP-A} histone and the Ame1^{CENP-C}/Okp1^{CENP-Q} heterodimer, during meiotic metaphase require further investigation. Moreover, it is possible that this phenomenon contributes to the essential requirement for some CCAN proteins for kinetochore assembly in meiosis, but not mitosis (Fernius & Marston, 2009; Borek *et al*, 2021; Mehta *et al*, 2014). Conversely, we observed higher levels of Dam1 complex proteins at meiotic metaphase I and II compared with mitosis, and this trend was significant for the complex as a whole (Figure 4A-B). Along the same lines, there was a small but statistically significant increase in the levels of KMN proteins in metaphase I specifically (Figure 4A-B). Overall, there is a trend for a loss in inner kinetochore protein interactions and a gain in outer kinetochore protein interactions in meiotic metaphase compared to mitotic metaphase. It is tempting to speculate that kinetochores are more loosely associated with chromatin and more strongly associated with the spindle through the outer kinetochore in meiotic vs mitotic metaphase. Potentially, kinetochore-spindle interactions are stabilised to better ensure accurate segregation during the rapid metaphase-anaphase transitions of meiosis and to cope with the challenging configuration of homologs in meiosis I, relying on chiasmata-dependent linkages.

Metaphase II kinetochores have reduced phosphorylation

Our phospho-proteomic analysis of purified kinetochores from meiosis and mitosis identified
4,487 phosphorylation sites on 1,614 proteins, indicating that ~35% of the detected proteome
is phosphorylated, in agreement with previous studies (Supp Figure 10) (Wettstein *et al*, 2024;
Ptacek *et al*, 2005). Nearly twice as many phospho-sites were identified in meiotic prophase
and metaphase I compared with metaphase II and mitotic metaphase (Supp Figure 10).
Around 250-400 more proteins were detected in prophase and metaphase I, suggesting
unique regulation at the level of protein abundances as well as phosphorylation (Supp Figure
7E). We found less variation in the number of phospho-sites found on known kinetochore
proteins, with around 100 sites identified on ~70 kinetochore proteins across all stages (Figure
5A). Despite this similarity, we quantified significant differences in the overall abundances of
the phospho-sites, with meiotic prophase and metaphase I kinetochores having significantly
higher levels of phosphorylation compared with meiotic metaphase II and mitotic metaphase
(Figure 5A). Within the core kinetochore structure, most phospho-sites mapped to the
chromatin-associated CCAN or the spindle-associated KMN complexes. It seems highly likely
that some of these phosphorylation events are important for the unique mono-oriented
arrangement of sister chromatids in meiosis I, and future research should aim for their
functional characterisation.

Furthermore, most of the detected phosphorylation sites were unique to the stage and
therefore their function is likely to be stage-specific (Supplementary Figure 10B). Whether
sister kinetochore biorientation at metaphase II and mitotic metaphase is physically and/or
biochemically distinct remains unclear. Our characterisation of meiotic SynSAC duration and
previous work with the endogenous SAC (MacKenzie *et al*, 2023) suggest that metaphase II
is regulated differently, with metaphase II having a shorter arrest compared to mitotic
metaphase upon SynSAC activation. However, previous biophysical characterisation
indicated that the kinetochore-microtubule attachment strength of metaphase II and mitotic
purified kinetochores was equivalent on average (Sarangapani *et al*, 2014). Thus, it may be
that the shorter duration of metaphase II does not depend on maximum attachment strength
per se and rather on some intrinsic cell cycle regulation or other properties of kinetochores in
these stages. Indeed, the distance between sister centromeres in mouse metaphase II
oocytes is nearly double that in human and mouse mitotic cells, so there are likely biophysical
differences between biorientation at these two stages (Kouznetsova *et al*, 2019). Additionally,
as many as ~20% of chromosomes in mouse metaphase II cells appear to have lateral or
merotelic attachments that persist into anaphase II, when they are then corrected
(Kouznetsova *et al*, 2019). Thus, compared with mitosis, error-correction mechanisms are
notably different in meiosis. Error-correction relies on phospho-regulation of the outer

kinetochore sub-complexes KMN and Dam1c, and we observed higher levels of Dam1 complex proteins in kinetochores from meiosis vs mitosis. This, in addition to the differential phospho-sites identified on outer kinetochore proteins, provides a good first step for future investigations into meiotic kinetochore attachment mechanisms and how they differ in meiosis I and meiosis II.

Materials and Methods

Plasmids

Plasmids used in this study are listed in Supplemental Table 1.

MPS1(440-765) in a *HIS3* single integration plasmid AMp1725 was made by restriction digest of empty *HIS3* single integration plasmid AMp1694 (received from Biggins Lab) and *MPS1(440-765)* amplified from wild type SK1 yeast genomic DNA. *pMPS1-MPS1(440-765)* in a *HIS3* single integration plasmid AMp1740 was made by Gibson assembly of ~500bp of *MPS1* promoter amplified from wild type SK1 yeast genomic DNA and AMp1725. *pMPS1-MPS1(440-765)-AB*I in a *HIS3* single integration plasmid AMp1755 was made by Gibson assembly of ABI amplified from AMp1460 (received from Hardwick Lab, made in Heun Lab) and AMp1740.

pSPC105-SPC105(1-455)-PYL-3FLAG in a *LEU2* single integration plasmid AMp1741 was made by Gibson assembly of 3 parts. ~500bp of *SPC105* promoter and *SPC105(1-455)* were amplified from wild type SK1 genomic DNA, *PYL-3FLAG* was amplified from plasmid AMp1461 (received from Hardwick Lab, made in Heun Lab) and *LEU2* single integration plasmid AMp1697 (received from Biggins Lab).

pSPC105-SPC105(1-455)-PYL in a *LEU2* single integration plasmid AMp2055 was made by megaprimer mutagenesis (two-step PCR) to completely remove the 3FLAG tag in AMp1741.

PP1 binding site mutations in *SPC105-PYL* plasmids were made by megaprimer mutagenesis. *spc105(1-455)-4A* mutates the 21-GILK-24 motif to 21-AAAA-24. *spc105(1-455)-RASA* mutates the 75-RVSF-78 motif to 75-RASA-78. The *spc105(1-455)-4A-RASA* plasmid contains both sets of mutations. *spc105(1-455)-RVAF* mutates serine 77 to alanine only.

Yeast strains

Budding yeast strains used in this study were derivatives of SK1 and are listed in
Supplemental Table 2. *pGAL1-NDT80 pGPD1-GAL4.ER* was described previously (Benjamin
et al, 2003). The *MPS1-3V5*, *SPC105-6His-3Flag*, and *DSN1-6His-3Flag* strains were made
by standard PCR tagging methods. SynSAC strains with *MPS1(440-765)-ABI* and *SPC105(1-*
455)-PYL integrated at the *his3* and *leu2* locus, respectively, were made by restriction
digestion of the appropriate plasmids and standard yeast DNA transformation procedures.
Yeast strains are available upon request without restriction.
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Meiotic prophase block-release timecourse

Cells were induced to undergo meiosis as described by (Barton *et al*, 2022) and *pGAL-*
NDT80 prophase block-release experiments were performed as outlined in (Carlile & Amon,
2008). Briefly, strains were patched from $-80\,°C$ stocks to YPG agar (1% Bacto yeast extract,
2% Bacto peptone, 2.5% glycerol, 0.3 mM adenine, 2% agar) plates. After ~16 h, cells were
inoculated into YPDA media and grown for 24 h at $30\,°C$ with shaking at 250 rpm. Next,
BYTA (1% Bacto yeast extract, 2% Bacto tryptone, 1% potassium acetate, 50 mM potassium
phthalate) cultures were prepared to $OD_{600} = 0.3$ and grown at $30\,°C$ with shaking at 250 rpm
overnight (~16 h). The next morning, cells were washed twice in sterile water and resuspended
in sporulation medium (0.3% potassium acetate, pH=7.0) at $OD_{600} = 2.0$. After 5.5 h in
sporulation media, 1 µM β-estradiol was added to release cells from prophase and samples
were collected for immunofluorescence every 15 min until 180 min, and then every 30 min for
a further hour. For experiments where protein samples were analysed by Western blotting, 10
ml of meiotic culture or 5 ml of mitotic culture was collected by centrifugation and resuspended
in 5 ml ice-cold 5% trichloroacetic acid (TCA). Cells were collected again by centrifugation and
transferred to Fastprep (MP) tubes. Cell pellets were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored
at $-70\,°C$. Frozen cell pellets were washed in 500 µl acetone and air-dried. Cell pellets were
resuspended in TE with 2.75µM DTT and 1x Roche cOmplete protease inhibitor cocktail.
Protein samples were prepared by bead-beating in an MP Fastprep machine, at speed 6.5 for
3 rounds of 45 seconds with 1 min on ice in between, at $4\,°C$. SDS Sample buffer was added
(final concentration 3% SDS) and samples were boiled for 3 minutes before PAGE.
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Spore viability assay

All spore viability assays were carried out following prophase block-release timecourses.
Following the timecourse, cultures were left shaking at $30\,°C$ ~24h. 100ul of culture was
collected by spinning in a microcentrifuge for 1min 13k rpm and then resuspended in 20ul
1mg/ml zymolyase in 1M sorbitol and incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature before

adding 1mL sterile water. Tetrads were dissected with a micromanipulator on a Nikon Eclipse

50i light microscope.

Mitotic alpha factor arrest-release timecourse

Yeast strains were patched from –80 °C stocks to YPG agar (1% Bacto yeast extract, 2%

Bacto peptone, 2.5% glycerol, 0.3 mM adenine, 2% agar) plates. The next day, strains were

patched to YPDA (1% Bacto yeast extract, 2% Bacto peptone, 2% glucose, 0.3mM adenine)

agar plates. The next day, cells were inoculated into YPDA medium and grown overnight ~16h

at 30 °C with shaking at 250 rpm. The next morning, cultures were diluted to OD ~0.2 and

grown for 2 hours at room temperature with shaking at 250 rpm. Cultures were diluted back

to OD ~0.2 and alpha factor was added to 7.5 µg/ml. Cultures were shaken at room

temperature for 3 hours before checking that >90% of cells were shmooing or unbudded. Cells

were washed three times in 2x volume water and collected by centrifuging in a tabletop

centrifuge 3k rpm for 2 minutes at room temperature. Cells were resuspended in fresh YPDA

and placed into clean flasks. Culture samples of 100µl were taken at time zero before addition

of either ethanol or 250 µM abscisic acid (ABA) and then at 30 minute intervals after addition

of ethanol or ABA. 100ul culture samples were immediately combined with 400µl ethanol and

stored at 4 °C. For DNA staining, cells were pelleted and resuspended in 100ul 1 µg/ml DAPI

in PBS. Yeast cells were sonicated for 30 seconds on low in a Bioruptor Twin sonicating device

(Diagenode) and glass slides were prepared and visualised on a Zeiss Axioplan Imager Z2

fluorescence microscope with a 100x Plan ApoChromat NA 1.45 oil lens. At least 100 cells

were counted for each condition.

Serial dilution mitotic growth assay

720 Yeast strains were inoculated into YPDA medium and grown overnight ~16h at room

721 temperature. Cultures were diluted to OD_{600}=0.2 and grown to mid-log at room temperature

722 before being diluted back to OD_{600}=0.3. Serial dilutions were set up in 96-well plates, with 5-

723 fold dilutions across rows. Yeast were transferred to YPDA plates or YPDA plates spread with

724 250 µM abscisic acid (ABA). Plates were incubated at 30 °C for ~24 h before taking images.

Spindle immunofluorescence

Meiotic spindles were visualised by indirect immunofluorescence as described in (Barton *et*

al, 2022). A rat anti-tubulin primary antibody (AbD serotec) at 1:50 dilution and an anti-rat FITC

conjugated secondary antibody (Jackson Immunoresearch) at 1:100 dilution were used. A

Ziess Axioplan Imager Z2 fluorescence microscope with a 100x Plan ApoChromat NA 1.45 oil

lens was used to visualise cells. In total, 100-200 cells were counted at each timepoint and/or
for each sample.

SDS-PAGE and Western blotting

SDS-PAGE and Western blotting were carried out largely as described in (Barton *et al*, 2022),

with minor modifications. Protein samples were separated on 10% bis-tris acrylamide gels

submerged in running buffer (25 mM Tris, 190 mM glycine, 0.01% SDS) using the Bio-Rad

Mini-Protean or Scie-plas TV200Y wide format mini gel system. SDS-PAGE gels were

transferred onto nitrocellulose membrane (0.45uM, Amersham-GE Healthcare) in transfer

buffer (25 mM Tris, 1.5% glycine, 0.02% SDS, 10% methanol) in a Bio-Rad Mini Trans-Blot

system or a semi-dry Amersham TE70 transfer unit.

Membranes were blocked in 5% milk in PBS with 0.01% Tween-20 (PBST) for at least

30 minutes before incubation in primary antibody overnight with gentle shaking at 4 °C. At

room temperature, membranes were washed three times for 10 minutes in PBST before

incubation in secondary antibody for 1 hour. Membranes were washed for 10 minutes, 3 times,

before visualisation using chemiluminescence. HRP-conjugated antibodies were detected

with ECL blotting substrate (Pierce), SuperSignal West Pico Plus substrate (Pierce), or

SuperSignal West Atto substrate (Pierce) for weaker signals and images were acquired with

a ChemiDoc MP Imaging System (Bio-Rad).

Growth conditions for kinetochore immunoprecipitations

All immunoprecipitations were performed with lysate from either a *DSN1-His-Flag*

strain (33675) or no tag *DSN1* (30990) strain grown in different conditions.

For each replicate from meiotic cultures, two cultures of 400mL OD~2.0 were

sporulated in 4L flasks and scored for metaphase arrest by spindle IF as appropriate. Cultures

that were most similar by date of growth and spindle IF were combined during later grinding

lysis. For each replicate from mitotic cultures, 800ml OD=1.1-1.3 culture was grown in one 4L

flask and harvested and processed together.

For each 400mL meiotic culture, strains were patched from -70 stocks to YPG plates

and grown at 30C. After ~24h, a 25mL YPDA culture in a 250 mL flask was inoculated and

grown at 30C, shaking at 250 rpm. After ~24h, a 200mL BYTA culture in a 2L flask was started

at OD=0.2 and grown at 30C, shaking at 250rpm. The next morning, after ~16h, a 400ml

culture in a 4L flask was started at OD~2.0 in sporulation medium. All meiotic cultures were

grown at 30C with shaking at 250rpm. For meiotic prophase, cultures were incubated for 5.5

hours before harvest. For metaphase I, cultures were incubated for 5.5 hours before 1 µM β-

estradiol and 250uM ABA were added together. After 90 minutes, cells were harvested. For metaphase II, cultures were incubated for 5.5 hours before 1 μM β-estradiol was added. After 105 minutes, 250 μM ABA was added and cells were harvested at 135 minutes. Samples for spindle immunofluorescence were collected at the time of harvest.

For each mitotic culture, strains were patched from -70 stocks to YPG plates and grown at 30C. After ~24h, a 25mL YPDA culture was inoculated in a 125mL flask and grown at 30C with shaking at 250rpm. After ~16h, an 800 mL YPDA culture was started in a 4L flask at OD~0.3 and grown at 30C with shaking at 250rpm. After ~3h, the OD=1.1-1.2 culture was harvested.

Immunoprecipitation of kinetochores for mass spectrometry

Immunoprecipitations were carried out essentially as described in (Borek *et al*, 2021), with minor modifications.

Harvest: Cell cultures were spun at 4k rpm for 5 min at 4C in a Beckman Avanti J25 centrifuge. Each 400ml cell culture pellet was washed in 150 mL water and spun again the same way. Then, cell pellets were resuspended in BH0.15 lysis buffer (150mM KCl, 25mM HEPES-KOH pH 8.0, 2mM MgCl2, 0.5mM EGTA-KOH pH 8.0, 0.1mM EDTA-KOH pH 8.0, 0.1% NP-40) including phosphatase inhibitors (5mM NaF, 2mM Na-beta-glycerophosphate, 1mM sodium pyrophosphate, 800uM sodium orthovanadate, 200nM microcystin-LR) and protease inhibitors (2mM Pefabloc, 10ug/ml each of 'CLAAPE' (Chymostatin, Leupeptin,Aprotinin,Antipain,Peptstatin A,E-64), and 1x Roche cOmplete inhibitor cocktail). Cell pellets were resuspended in BH0.15 including inhibitors according to the following equation: OD600 x culture volume in L x 2 = mL buffer (ie for each 400 mL OD=2.0 pellet, cells were resuspended in 1.6mL buffer). Resuspended cultures were drop frozen into liquid nitrogen and stored at -70 before further processing.

Lysis: Frozen cell pellets were lysed by cryo-grinding in a SPEX 6875 Freezer Mill, with 5 min pre-cool, 2 min Run time, 2 min Cool time, 8 cycles of 10 cycles per second. Cryo-grindate was stored at -70 before further processing.

Antibody conjugation to Dynabeads: As described in (Borek *et al*, 2021). Antibody-conjugated Protein G Dynabeads (ThermoFisher) were always prepared no more than 24 hours before use and were stored at 4 C until use.

Immunoprecipitation and elution: Grindate powder, in 50mL falcons, was thawed in room temperature water before transferring to ice. Thawed grindate was clarified by centrifugation in a tabletop centrifuge at 3,500 rpm for 10 min 4C. The supernatant, the lysate, was transferred to a new falcon tube and concentration measured by standard Bradford Assay

(BioRad Cat#5000006). IPs were set up so that 80-100mg protein was incubated with ~100
uL anti-FLAG conjugated Protein G Dynabeads (ThermoFisher). The ratio of protein to beads
was always kept such that 12.6 mg protein was incubated with 15 uL antibody-conjugated
beads. IPs of replicates of the same condition were all done on the same day and normalised
so that protein concentration and antibody-bead volumes were the same between replicates.
Protein lysates and antibody-conjugated Dynabeads were incubated together in falcon tubes
with gentle rotation at 4C for 3 hours. Next, supernatants were collected and beads were
washed twice in 1mL BH0.15 with phosphatase and protease inhibitors by gently inverting the
tubes, then washed once in 1mL BH0.15 alone. Protein was eluted from beads in two rounds
of 10 min at 50C in a ThermoMixer C (Eppendorf) at 500-600 rpm with 0.1% RapiGest SF in
50mM Tris pH 8.0, added to one-half volume of Dynabeads (ie two rounds of 50 ul elution for
100 ul Dynabeads). The two sequential elutions were combined and the eluate was stored at
-70 before further processing.

Silver staining

Protein samples were separated on 4-12% NuPAGE pre-cast gels (Invitrogen) run in MES
buffer (50mM MES, 50mM Tris Base, 0.1% SDS, 1mM EDTA, pH 7.3) and stained using an
Invitrogen Silverquest staining kit following the manufacturer's instructions.

Preparation of samples for mass spectrometry

RapiGest eluates were prepared for mass spectrometry by trypsin digestion with a
filter-aided sample preparation (FASP) method, essentially as described in (Wiśniewski *et al*,
2009; Koch *et al*, 2024).

Phospho-peptide enrichment

For each trypsin-digested peptide solution, 5% was loaded directly onto C18 stage
tips, called the "N" sample, and 95% was processed for phospho-peptide enrichment via Ti-
IMAC beads (MagReSyn) as described in (Koch *et al*, 2024), and called the "PE" (for phospho-
enriched) sample before loading on C18 stage tips. Samples of the same condition were all
processed on the same day (eg all prophase samples were processed together on the same
day).

DIA mass spectrometry

The "N" and "PE" peptides eluted from the filter units were acidified using 20 μl of 10%
Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA) (Sigma Aldrich). Samples were spun onto StageTips as described

by (Rappsilber *et al*, 2007). Peptides were eluted in 40 µL of 80% acetonitrile in 0.1% TFA

and concentrated down to 1 µL by vacuum centrifugation (Concentrator 5301, Eppendorf, UK).

They were then prepared for LC-MS/MS analysis by diluting it to 5 µL by 0.1% TFA.

LC-MS analyses were performed on Orbitrap Exploris™ 480 (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

UK) on a Data Independent Acquisition (DIA) mode, coupled on-line, to an Ultimate 3000

HPLC (Dionex, Thermo Fisher Scientific, UK). Peptides were separated on a 50 cm (2 *µm*

particle size) EASY-Spray column (Thermo Scientific, UK), which was assembled on an

EASY-Spray source (Thermo Scientific, UK) and operated constantly at 55°C. Mobile phase

A consisted of 0.1% formic acid in LC-MS grade water and mobile phase B consisted of 80%

acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid. Peptides were loaded onto the column at a flow rate of 0.3

µL min^{-1} and eluted at a flow rate of 0.25 µL min^{-1} according to the following gradient: 2 to 40%

mobile phase B in 150 min and then to 95% in 11 min. Mobile phase B was retained at 95%

for 5 min and returned back to 2% a minute after until the end of the run (160 min).

Survey scans were recorded at 120,000 resolution (scan range 350-1650 m/z) with an

ion target of 5.0e6, and injection time of 20ms. MS2 was performed in the orbitrap at 30,000

resolution with a scan range of 200-2000 m/z, maximum injection time of 55ms and AGC

target of 3.0E6 ions. We used HCD fragmentation with stepped collision energy of 25.5, 27

and 30. We used variable isolation windows throughout the scan range ranging from 10.5 to

50.5 m/z. Narrow isolation windows (10.5-18.5 m/z) were applied from 400-800 m/z and then

gradually increased to 50.5 m/z until the end of the scan range. The default charge state was

set to 3. Data for both survey and MS/MS scans were acquired in profile mode.

Mass spectrometry library search conditions

The DIA-NN software platform (Demichev *et al*, 2020) version 1.9.2. was used to

process the DIA raw files and search was conducted against our in house *Saccharomyces*

cerevisiae complete/reference proteome (original database from Saccharomyces Genome

Database for the strain SK1, released in May, 2019). Precursor ion generation was based on

the chosen protein database (automatically generated spectral library) with deep-learning

based spectra, retention time and IMs prediction. Digestion mode was set to specific with

trypsin allowing maximum of two missed cleavages. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine was

set as fixed modification. Oxidation of methionine, acetylation of the N-terminus and

phosphorylation on serine, threonine and tyrosine were set as variable modifications. The

parameters for peptide length range, precursor charge range, precursor m/z range and

fragment ion m/z range as well as other software parameters were used with their default

values. The precursor FDR was set to 1%. Annotating library proteins were created with

information from the FASTA database.

Mass spectrometry data analysis in R

All data analysis was performed using the report.pg_matrix.tsv and

report.phosphosites_99.tsv files from DIA-NN version 1.9.2 using R (v 4.2.3) within the

RStudio environment.

For proteins, the columns corresponding to the measurements of the non-phospho-

enriched ("N") samples in the report.pg_matrix.tsv file were analysed. For phospho-sites, the

columns corresponding to the measurements of the phospho-enriched ("PE") samples in the

report.phosphosites_99.tsv file were analysed. Only phospho-peptides with greater than or

equal to 99% localisation confidence for the phospho- modification at the given site residue

are included in the measurements in the report.phosphosites_99.tsv file. In DIA-NN, phospho-

site abundances can include measurements from multiply-modified peptides, however the

vast majority of phospho-sites are quantified from singly phospho-peptides.

No imputation was carried out. Due to low coverage, only two out of three replicates

of the mitotic DSN1 ("no tag") "N" samples were analysed for protein levels and only two out

of three replicates from each of the mitotic DSN1 ("no tag") and mitotic Dsn1-His-Flag ("tag")

"PE" samples were analysed for phospho-site abundances. Samples from Dsn1-His-Flag

("tag") IPs and DSN1 ("no tag") IPs were normalised separately. All IP samples of the same

type ("tag" or "no tag"), including all replicates and cell cycle stages, were normalised together.

For both the protein measurements of the "N" samples and the phospho-site measurements

from the "PE" samples, a column median normalisation was carried out; all values in a given

sample column were multiplied by a scaling factor consisting of the median intensity of all

sample columns divided by the median sample intensity of that individual column. To

normalise phospho-site abundances to the protein level, each column-normalised value from

the "PE" measurements of the phosphosites_99 file were divided by the corresponding

column-normalised protein (from "N") measurement from the pg_matrix table and multiplied

by 1000. For example the normalised value of phospho-site Ndc80-T-54 in the PE sample of

the phosphosites_99 table was divided by the normalised value of the protein Ndc80 in the

corresponding N sample of the pg_matrix and multiplied by 1000.

To better analyse differential protein levels between IPs, the protein measurements

from the "N" samples were further scaled by the measurement of Dsn1 within each sample.

Each normalised protein measurement was divided by the normalised value of Dsn1 within

that sample. All protein measurements shown in Figures 4, Supp Fig 5 C-D, and Supp Fig 6-
8 are Dsn1-scaled.

Protein and phospho-site measurements were further analysed using functions from
the Differential Enrichment of Proteins (DEP) R package (Zhang *et al*, 2018). Both protein and
phospho-site tables were filtered to include only proteins or sites that were measured in all
replicates of at least one condition.

Venn diagrams were made using interactivenn.net (Heberle *et al*, 2015). For the GO
term enrichment analysis, ranked lists were generated. Proteins or phospho-proteins were
ranked by descending fold-change and known kinetochore proteins were excluded. For each
stage, comparison with the other stages generated three ranked lists. The top 50 proteins
from all three lists were combined together in one list and duplicates were removed. Using
these lists, GO term enrichment was carried out using gprofiler2 R package (Kolberg *et al*,
2020) with organism="scerevisiae" and otherwise default settings. For the ranked lists in Supp
Fig 5 and 9, proteins were ranked by descending fold-change, known kinetochore proteins
were excluded, and the top 20 proteins were selected.

The stat_pwc() function from the ggpubr R package was used to run statistical tests
comparing protein or phospho-site intensities in Figures 4-6 and Supp Fig 7. For boxplots in
Figure 4B, Figure 5A, Figure 6C, and Supp Fig 7E-F, a two-sided Wilcoxon test was run and
p-values adjusted with the Bonferroni method. For barplots in Figure 5D, a two-sided t-test
was run and p-values adjusted with the Bonferroni method. In all figures, a single asterisk (*)
indicates a p-value of less than or equal to 0.05, two asterisks (**) a p-value less than or equal
to 0.01, and three asterisks (***) p-value of less than or equal to 0.001.

The ggseqlogo R package was used to make phospho-site motif logos (Wagih, 2017).

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943 Conceptualization – LK and AM; Data curation –LK and CS; Funding Acquisition – AM; Formal
944 Analysis – LK and CS; Investigation – LK; Software – LK; Supervision –AM; Visualization –
945 LK; Writing – original draft – LK; Writing – review and editing – LK and AM with input from all
946 authors

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949 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Figure 1 Construction of a meiotic SynSAC activation system

(A) Diagram of synthetic SAC dimerization system. (B) Spore viability of wild type (AM11189) and SynSAC dimer (AM30783) yeast strains (C) Meiosis spindle immunofluorescence timecourse of SynSAC dimer yeast strain (AM30783) under control (ethanol, left), meiosis I dimerizing (250μM ABA at release), or meiosis II dimerizing (250μM ABA at 100 minutes) conditions. (D) Meiosis spindle immunofluorescence timecourse in wild-type SynSAC (AM30783), SynSAC *mad1Δ* (AM33558), SynSAC *mad2Δ* (AM33559), and SynSAC *mad3Δ* (AM30784) strains. Vertical dotted line indicates time of ABA addition. 250μM abscisic acid

1164   (ABA) was added to each culture at 0 minutes upon addition of β-estradiol (prophase release).

1165   MI = metaphase I; AI = anaphase I; MII = metaphase II; AII = anaphase II.

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Figure 2 Meiotic SynSAC delays degradation of Pds1[securin]

(A-C) Meiosis timecourse with spindle immunofluorescence (left) and western blotting to visualize Pds1-Myc and Pgk1 loading control (right). (A) Control timecourse with ethanol added at prophase release (vertical dotted line). (B) Meiosis I SynSAC delay timecourse with 250μM ABA added at prophase release (vertical dotted line). (C) Meiosis II SynSAC delay meiosis timecourse with 250μm ABA added at 100 minutes after prophase release (vertical dotted line). Strain used in A-C was AM34398. MI = metaphase I; AI = anaphase I; MII = metaphase II; AII = anaphase II.

Figure 3 PP1 binding restrains SynSAC delay duration in meiotic metaphase

(A-B) Meiosis I (A) and meiosis II (B) SynSAC spindle immunofluorescence timecourses in wild-type vs PP1 binding site mutant SynSAC strains. Top: Schematic indicating drug addition timing. Middle row: Control wild-type (AM30783), SynSAC wild-type (AM30783), SynSAC *spc105-4A* (AM34201). Bottom row: SynSAC *spc105-RASA* (AM34203), SynSAC *spc105-4A-RASA* (AM34202), SynSAC *spc105-RVAF* (AM34487).

Figure 4 Kinetochore protein dynamics in meiotic prophase, metaphase I, metaphase II, and mitotic metaphase

(A and B) Knetochores purified by Dsn1-6His-3Flag immunoprecipation were analysed from cells arrested at the indicated stages using the SynSAC system by mass spectrometry. Strain used was AM33675. (A) Heatmap of individual protein levels of core kinetochore proteins (left). Heatmap of individual protein levels of transiently associated kinetochore proteins at each stage (right). (B) Boxplots of groups of kinetochore proteins at each stage. Dots indicate

1194   individual proteins and the numbers above each plot indicate the number of proteins included

1195   in each group at that stage. P-values from Wilcoxon two-sided test are shown.

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Figure 5 Reduced kinetochore protein phosphorylation in metaphase II

(A-D) Phosphorylation analysis of kinetochores purified as in Figure 4 and subjected to phospho-enrichment prior to mass spectrometry. (A)Boxplots of groups of kinetochore protein phosphorylation sites at each stage. Numbers above each plot indicate the number of phospho-sites included in the group at each stage. P-values from two-sided Wilcoxon test are

shown for all kinetochore phospho-sites (upper left). No other comparisons were significantly

different by Wilcoxon test in any other group/stage. (B) Heatmap of total sum of phospho-site

abundance for each kinetochore protein at each stage. Phospho-proteins are ranked, with

proteins with the highest sum of phospho-site abundances, for all 4 stages together, at the

top. Numbers within parentheses next to protein name indicate the sum of phospho-site

abundances for all 4 stages. (C) Boxplots of maximum phospho-site range across the 4 stages

for each kinetochore protein. Phospho-proteins are ranked so that proteins with the highest

median phospho-site dynamic range across stages are at the top. Numbers in parentheses

indicate the number of phospho-sites considered to calculate maximum phospho-site range.

(D) Barplots of individual phospho-site abundances for the indicated sites at each of the 4

stages. Dots indicate the abundance in individual replicates.

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Figure 6 Kinetochore phospho-site motifs do not vary significantly by stage

(A-D) Features of kinetochore phosphorylation after phospho-analysis of kinetochore purifications in Figure 5. (A) Motif logos of amino acids surrounding kinetochore protein phospho-sites at each stage. (B) Barplots of the percent of phospho-sites which match indicated kinase consensus motifs at each stage. (C) Barplots of the percent of phospho-sites which match the Polo kinase consensus motif (top) or minimal Cdk consensus motif (bottom),

1224   sorted by kinetochore sub-complex and cell cycle stage. (D) Heatmap showing the abundance
1225   of individual kinetochore phospho-sites matching the minimal Polo kinase consensus. (E)
1226   Heatmap showing the abundance of individual kinetochore phospho-sites matching the
1227   minimal Cdk kinase consensus.