MAE 545: Lecture 9 (10/15)

Cell division in higher organisms

Replicated chromosome with sister Kinetochore Spindle pole chromatids Interpolar Kinetochore Astral microtubules microtubules microtubules

Cell division in bacteria



Cell division in higher organisms



condensing replicated chromosome, consisting of two sister chromatids held together along their length

centrosome

kinetochore

microtubule

at spindle

pole

fragments of

nuclear envelope





Prometaphase



Telophase

spindle pole

moving outward



Metaphase

chromosome in active motion

Cytokinesis



Cell division



Growing microtubules can push centrosomes to the middle of the cell



R. Phillips et al., Physical Biology of the Cell

Spindle is organized by molecular motors



spindle (metaphase)



Alberts et al., Molecular Biology of the Cell

Microtubules are depolymerized at spindle poles



Microtubules attach to chromosomes via kinetochore



Cell division

Once all chromosomes are correctly attached to microtubules, they break into pair of chromatids, which are then pulled towards centrosomes



Contractile ring involving actin and myosin motors divides the cell in two



Spindle length is similar across the cells

Spindles in Drosophila cells



 $10 \mu m$

cell nuclei microtubules spindle poles

How various factors affect the spindle length?

Certain factors are removed with RNA interference



Model for spindle length control



Sliding force pushes centrosomes apart



$$F_{\text{sliding}} = \alpha L \left(1 - \frac{v_{\text{sliding}}}{v_{\text{sliding}}^{(\text{max})}} \right)$$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \alpha & \textbf{proportional to density} \\ & \textbf{of sliding motors} \end{array}$



K. Visscher et al., Nature 400, 184-189 (1999)

Kinetochore pulls centrosome inwards



$$F_{\rm kt} = F_{\rm kt,0}$$

constant tension force between chromosomes and centrosomes

Restoring spring forces try to keep spindle at rest length S₀



Model for spindle length control



$$F_{\text{sliding}} = \alpha L \left(1 - \frac{v_{\text{sliding}}}{v_{\text{sliding}}^{(\text{max})}} \right)$$
$$F_{\text{kt}} = F_{\text{kt},0}$$
$$F_{\text{kt}} = -\beta (S - S_{\text{s}})$$

$$F_{\text{tension}} = \beta(S - S_0)$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{2\left(F_{\text{sliding}} - F_{\text{kt}} - F_{\text{tension}}\right)}{\mu}$$

assuming viscous drag

G. Goshima *et al.*, Current Biol. 15, 1979-1988 (2005)

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = 2 \left(v_{\text{poly}} - v_{\text{sliding}} \right)$$
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = 2 \left(v_{\text{sliding}} - v_{\text{depoly}} \right)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} + \frac{dS}{dt} = 2\left(v_{\text{poly}} - v_{\text{depoly}}\right)$$

No steady state if rates of microtubule polymerization and depolymerization are different!

1

Depolymerization rate depends on the sliding force



D.J. Odde, Current Biol. 15, R956-R959 (2005)

Model for spindle length control



Spindle bistability



Cell division in bacteria



Genetic information in bacteria



One largeA few smallcircular DNAcircular plasmids

Plasmids carry additional genes that have recently evolved and may benefit survival (e.g. antibiotic resistance)

DNA replication and segregation



Wikipedia

Spontaneous demixing due to steric excluded volume interactions



S. Jun and A. Wright, Nat. Rev. Microbiology 8, 600-607 (2010)

Topoisomerase 1 and 2 release tension along the DNA and speed up the separation process



Separation by type II topoisomerase can be fast despite occasional reverse strand-passing



S. Jun and A. Wright, Nat. Rev. Microbiology 8, 600-607 (2010)

Bacteria divide faster than DNA replicates

Under normal conditions E. coli divides every 15-20 min In E. coli it takes ~40 min to replicate DNA

How can bacteria divide faster than DNA replicates?

Multiple replication forks!



Bacteria starts replicating DNA for their daughters, grand daughters, etc.

Plasmid segregation

Plasmids are too small to spontaneously segregate on different sides of bacteria



ParM is analogous to actin (assembly by ATP hydrolysis)

Alberts et al., Molecular Biology of the Cell

Contraction of FtsZ-ring divides bacterial cell in two



FtsZ is analogous to tubulin (assembly by GTP hydrolysis)



1 μm



Bacterial division is extremely precise. FtsZ forms at $(0.50 \pm 0.01) L$

How does bacteria know where to place the contractile ring?

Min system oscillations provide cues for the formation of FtsZ ring

FtsZ T MinC MinD T MinE Predator-prey like dynamics between MinD and MinE proteins produce oscillations on a minute time scale, which is much shorter than typical division time (~20 min).

On average MinC/MinD proteins are depleted near the cell center, where FtsZ ring forms!





H. Meinhardt and P.A.J. de Boer, PNAS 98, 14202 (2001)

Min system oscillations in large cells

MinD oscillations in normal E. Coli



1 μm

MinD oscillations in E. Coli, where division is prevented

(B)



R. Phillips et al., Physical Biology of the Cell