

# A pre-start checkpoint preventing mitosis in fission yeast acts independently of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> tyrosine phosphorylation

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**We have monitored the tyrosine (Y15) phosphorylated and dephosphorylated forms of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> from *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* as cells proceed through the cell cycle. Y15 is dephosphorylated in G<sub>1</sub> before start and becomes phosphorylated only after cells pass start and enter late G<sub>1</sub>. This transition is associated with a switch from one checkpoint which restrains mitosis in pre-start G<sub>1</sub>, by a mechanism independent from Y15 phosphorylation, to a second checkpoint acting post-start during late G<sub>1</sub> and S phase operating through Y15 phosphorylation. The pre-start checkpoint may act by preventing formation of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex. The complex between Y15-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> accumulates during S phase and G<sub>2</sub>, but the level generated is not solely dependent on the amount of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> present in the cell. The extent of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> breakdown at the end of mitosis may be determined by the amount complexed with p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. We have also shown that an insoluble form of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is associated with the progression of the cell through late G<sub>1</sub> into S phase.**

**Key words:** checkpoints/mitosis/p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/*Schizosaccharomyces pombe*/tyrosine phosphorylation

## Introduction

The 34 kDa protein kinase p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and mitotic B cyclin play key roles in regulating the eukaryotic cell cycle (Nurse, 1990). In the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is required in late G<sub>1</sub> at start when the cell becomes committed to the cell cycle, and then again in late G<sub>2</sub> at the onset of mitosis (Nurse and Bissett, 1981). The level of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is constant through the cell cycle, but p34<sup>cdc2</sup> protein kinase activity is sharply periodic, rising to a peak at the G<sub>2</sub>/M transition (Moreno *et al.*, 1989). This increase in kinase activity brings about mitosis, and if p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is prematurely activated then mitosis is advanced (Gould and Nurse, 1989). Kinase activation requires association with the B-cyclin p56<sup>cdc13</sup> encoded by *cdc13*<sup>+</sup>, but this does not normally determine the timing of activation. This is determined by dephosphorylation of a tyrosine (Y15) located in the catalytic site of the enzyme (Gould and Nurse, 1989; Endicott *et al.*, 1994), brought about by the phosphatase p80<sup>cdc25</sup> encoded by *cdc25*<sup>+</sup> (Millar *et al.*, 1991; Strausfeld *et al.*, 1991). Three other phosphatases, *pyp1*, *pyp2* and *pyp3* (Millar *et al.*, 1992a,b; Otilie *et al.*, 1992), have also been shown to influence the regulation

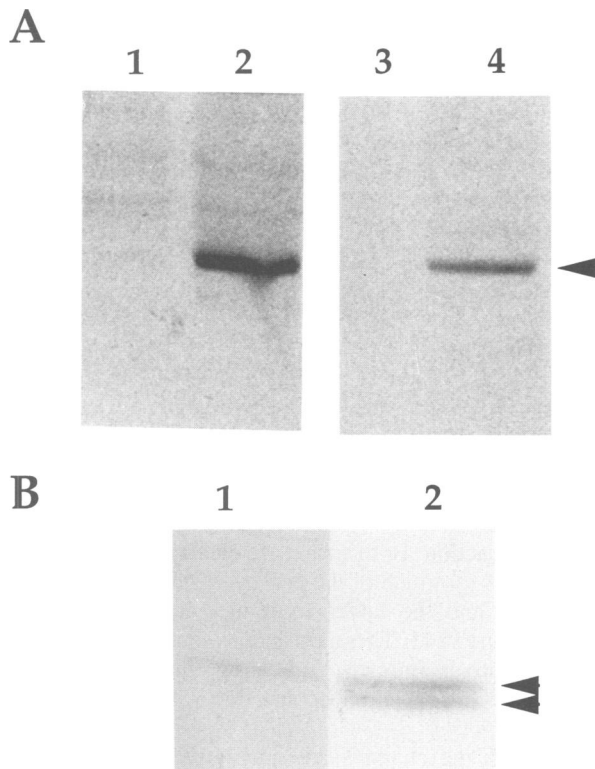
of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> activation. The phosphatase activity of p80<sup>cdc25</sup> is counteracted by the tyrosine/threonine protein kinases encoded by the *wee1* (Featherstone and Russell, 1991; Parker *et al.*, 1992; McGowan and Russell, 1993) and *mik1* genes (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991) which phosphorylate Y15.

In fission yeast, p34<sup>cdc2</sup> activity is also required for checkpoints preventing the onset of mitosis before the completion of S phase (Enoch and Nurse, 1990) and the onset of S phase in the absence of mitosis (Broek *et al.*, 1991). Checkpoint controls preventing premature entry into mitosis when DNA replication is incomplete act through the tyrosine phosphorylation state of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/cyclin B complex (Dasso and Newport, 1990; Enoch and Nurse, 1990; Enoch *et al.*, 1991; Kumagai and Dunphy, 1991).

In order to describe more fully the changes in the Y15 phosphorylation state of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> protein during the cell cycle, we have investigated extraction procedures and gel systems in an attempt to resolve the different forms of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. We show here that p34<sup>cdc2</sup> from fission yeast can be resolved into two forms, one of which is phosphorylated on Y15. Monitoring phosphorylation changes during the cell cycle has shown that there is no detectable tyrosine-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup> in G<sub>1</sub> before start and that tyrosine-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup> only begins to appear after completion of the *cdc10* gene function at start.

The lack of tyrosine phosphorylation on p34<sup>cdc2</sup> during the pre-start period suggests that the checkpoint preventing entry into mitosis by modulating the level of tyrosine phosphorylation of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is not operative during this period of the cell cycle. To examine this further, we investigated the three checkpoint-defective mutants *mik1Δ* *wee1-50*, *chk1Δ* (*rad27*) and *hus1-14* (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991; Enoch *et al.*, 1992; Sheldrick and Carr, 1993; Walworth *et al.*, 1993) and found that none of these enter mitosis from the pre-start G<sub>1</sub> period. They do, however, enter prematurely into mitosis from a post-start period when cells leak past the *cdc10* block point. These results are contrary to previously published data for the *wee1-50* *mik1Δ* and *chk1Δ* (*rad27*) mutants (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991; Sheldrick and Carr, 1993).

p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> have previously been found to be present in two fractions: a high-speed supernatant (soluble fraction) and pellet (insoluble fraction) (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). We have monitored p34<sup>cdc2</sup> forms in both these fractions during the cell cycle and find that during normal vegetative growth there is no difference between the two fractions which are both present throughout the cell cycle. However, during spore germination and after heat treatment of a *cdc2-L7* mutant, insoluble p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is the predominant form found when cells undergo the G<sub>1</sub> to S phase transition, suggesting that this form of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> may have activity in G<sub>1</sub> at start.



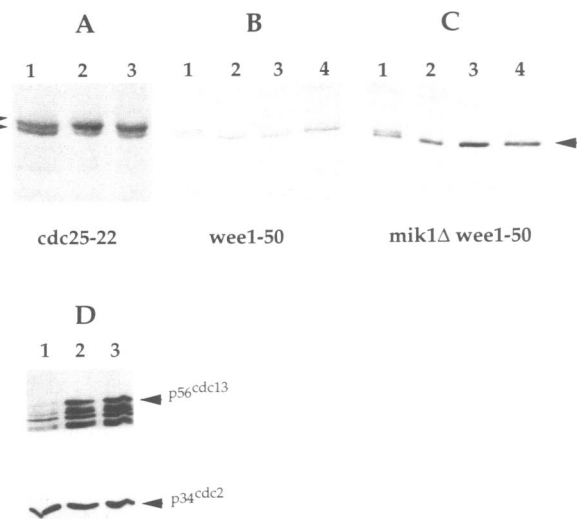
**Fig. 1.** (A) Immunoblots of soluble (lanes 1 and 2) and insoluble (lanes 3 and 4) fractions of *S.pombe* protein prepared from the human replacement strain HY1 (lanes 1 and 3) and wild type (lanes 2 and 4), and probed with a C-terminal p34<sup>cdc2</sup> antibody, PN24. The arrow marks the position of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. No doublet is observed as the extracts were electrophoresed using a mini gel system which does not resolve the two bands. (B) An immunoblot of a PN24 immunoprecipitate of total protein from *S.pombe* probed with the anti-phosphotyrosine antibody PY72 (lane 1) and PN24 (lane 2). The arrows mark the two bands of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>.

## Results

### The PN24 antibody specifically recognizes p34<sup>cdc2</sup>

In a number of organisms there are several proteins of 34 kDa which are similar in sequence to p34<sup>cdc2</sup> (Meyerson *et al.*, 1992). Although such gene products have not been reported in fission yeast, we first established that the antibody used in this study was specific for p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. The rabbit polyclonal antibody PN24 (Simanis and Nurse, 1986), raised against the C-terminal six amino acids of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>, was used for Western blotting of soluble and insoluble extracts from a wild-type strain (972) and a yeast strain (HY1) in which the endogenous *cdc2*<sup>+</sup> gene had been replaced by the human CDC2 gene (MacNeill and Nurse, 1993). Human p34<sup>CDC2</sup> differs completely in the C-terminal region of amino acids from *S.pombe* p34<sup>cdc2</sup>, and as a consequence does not react with the PN24 antibody.

The p34<sup>cdc2</sup> protein was readily detected in both soluble and insoluble extracts from wild-type cells (Figure 1A, lanes 2 and 4), with about twice as much in the soluble as in the insoluble extract. No 34 kDa proteins were detected in either extract from the HY1 strain (Figure 1A, lanes 1 and 3). This experiment establishes that PN24 is specific for p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and does not recognize other 34 kDa proteins from *S.pombe*.

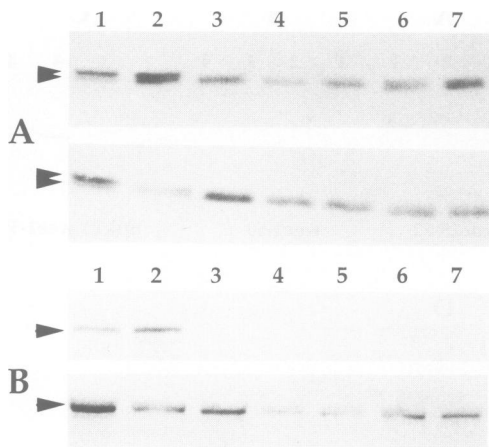


**Fig. 2.** Immunoblots with PN24 of soluble extracts from (A) *cdc25-22* which becomes blocked in G<sub>2</sub> at the restrictive temperature, (B) *wee1-50* which is advanced into mitosis with reduced Y15 phosphorylation at the restrictive temperature, (C) *mik1Δ wee1-50* strain which undergoes mitotic catastrophe with no Y15 phosphorylation at the restrictive temperature. Mutants were grown to early exponential phase at 25°C and then shifted to 36°C for 0 h (lane 1), 2 h (lane 2), 4 h (lane 3) and 6 h (lane 4) for *wee1-50* and *mik1Δ wee1-50*. The arrows mark p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. (D) p13<sup>suc1</sup> precipitates from a time course of a *cdc25-22* mutant shifted to 36°C for 0 h (lane 1), 2 h (lane 2), 4 h (lane 3) were Western blotted with PN24 (lower panel) and SP4 (upper panel). Two hours after shift up to 36°C, the cells were blocked in G<sub>2</sub> and had accumulated high levels of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex. The p56<sup>cdc13</sup> becomes readily degraded and the arrow marks the intact protein.

### Resolution by SDS-PAGE of tyrosine-phosphorylated and dephosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup>

p34<sup>cdc2</sup> extracted from cells of multicellular eukaryotes has been observed to run as multiple bands (Morla *et al.*, 1989; Norbury *et al.*, 1991; Osmani *et al.*, 1994), but such isoforms have not been previously detected in extracts prepared from fission or budding yeast. We have found that running an 18 cm 12.5% SDS-polyacrylamide gel (see Materials and methods) resolves p34<sup>cdc2</sup> into a doublet in both the soluble and insoluble fractions. If these two fractions are mixed together or electrophoresed side by side, only two bands with the same mobility are detected (data not shown), showing that different isoforms of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> from fission yeast are resolved into two bands and these two bands are detected in both the soluble and the insoluble fractions. *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is phosphorylated on Y15 and T167 (Gould and Nurse, 1989; Gould *et al.*, 1991). To identify which band contained Y15-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup>, we immunoprecipitated with PN24 and the subsequent immunoprecipitate was electrophoresed and Western blotted with PN24 (Figure 1B, lane 2) or with the anti-phosphotyrosine antibody PY72 (Figure 1B, lane 1). Only the upper band was detected by PY72, establishing that this form contains phosphorylated Y15.

This was confirmed using mutant strains altered in the level of Y15-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. Extracts were prepared from a temperature-sensitive *cdc25-22* mutant which arrests in G<sub>2</sub> with inactive p34<sup>cdc2</sup> phosphorylated



**Fig. 3.** Protein from the soluble (A and B, upper panels) and insoluble (A and B, lower panels) fractions was prepared from a *cdc25-22* mutant blocked at the restrictive temperature of 36°C (lane 1), then shifted down to the permissive temperature for 20 min (lane 2), 40 min (lane 3), 60 min (lane 4), 80 min (lane 5), 100 min (lane 6) and 120 min (lane 7). Protein samples were immunoblotted with PN24 (A) and SP4 (B), and the arrows show the proteins. Coomassie Blue staining of the electrophoresed protein samples showed that all lanes were equally loaded.

on Y15 (Gould and Nurse, 1989; Moreno *et al.*, 1989). Western blotting with PN24 showed that the upper band was substantially increased compared with the same strain grown at the permissive temperature of 25°C when cells proceed through the cell cycle normally (Figure 2A, compare track 1 with tracks 2 and 3). In the next experiments, extracts were prepared from a temperature-sensitive *wee1-50* strain incubated at the restrictive temperature of 36°C when cells are viable but enter mitosis at a small cell size, and a *mik1Δ wee1-50* strain which is lethal because of premature entry into mitosis (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991). *p107<sup>wee1</sup>* is a threonine/tyrosine kinase which phosphorylates *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* on Y15 (Featherstone and Russell, 1991; Parker and Piwnica-Worms, 1992; McGowan and Russell, 1993). *Wee1-50* cells at 36°C have reduced levels of Y15-phosphorylated *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991). Western blotting with PN24, of protein from a *wee1-50* strain grown at 36°C, shows that the upper band, although still present, is reduced (Figure 2B, lanes 2, 3 and 4). The *mik1*-encoded protein kinase has homology with the *p107<sup>wee1</sup>* kinase and a *mik1Δ wee1-50* strain at 36°C has no Y15-phosphorylated *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991). Western blotting of this strain after shift to 36°C shows that the upper band is undetectable (Figure 2C, lanes 2, 3 and 4) compared with cells grown at the permissive temperature (Figure 2C, lane 1). These results are all consistent with only the upper band of *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* being phosphorylated on Y15.

#### **Only a subpopulation of *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* is phosphorylated on tyrosine**

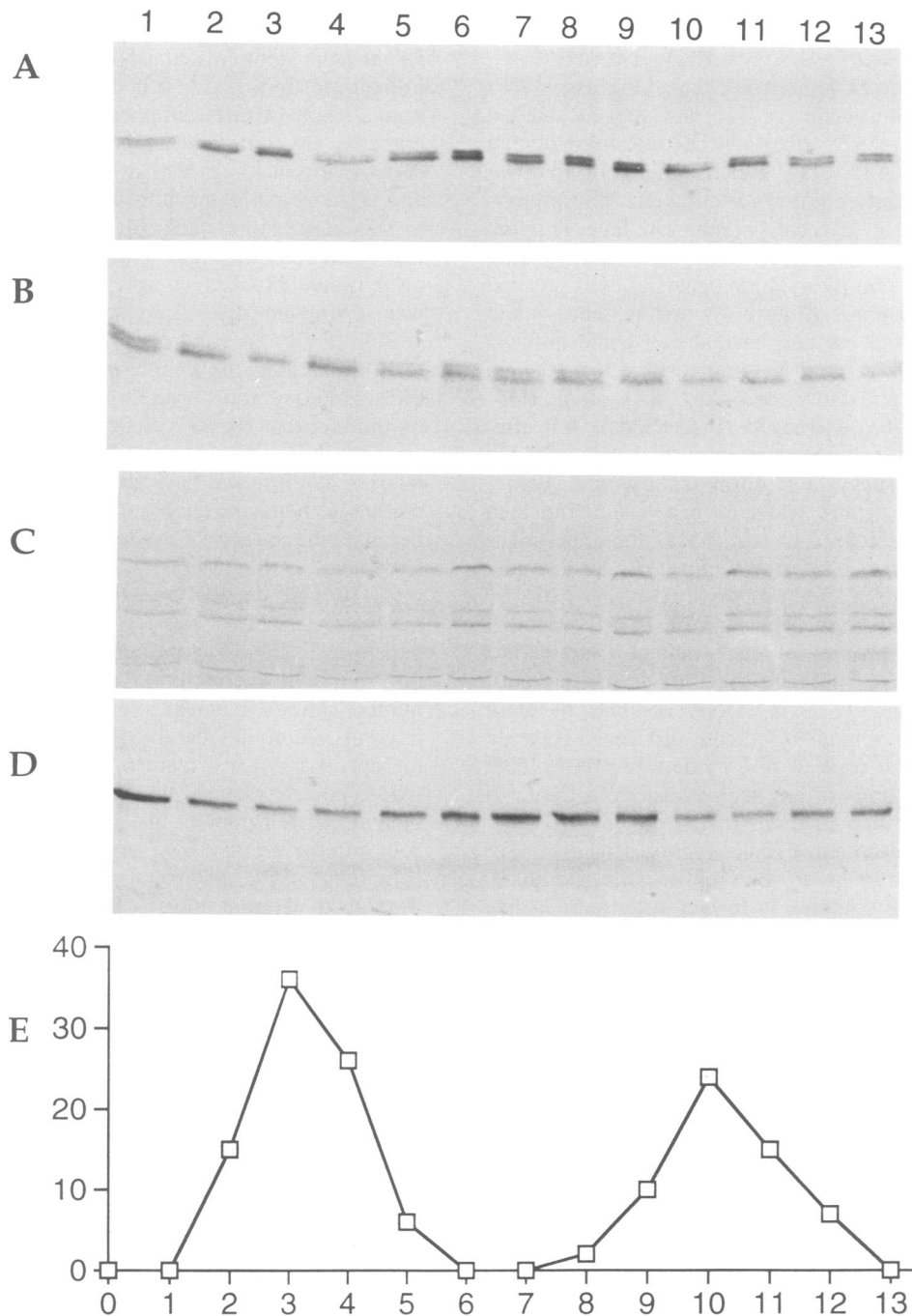
Having established that only the slower migrating band of *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* contains Y15-phosphorylated *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>*, we examined the level of Y15 phosphorylation as cells pass synchronously through mitosis into G<sub>1</sub>. To do this, we used cells released from a late G<sub>2</sub> block imposed by holding the *cdc25-22* mutant strain at 36°C (Figure 3).

As already shown (Figure 2A), at the *cdc25-22* block point there is a considerable increase in the upper form to a level where it represents ~80% of the total in both the soluble fraction (Figure 3A, lane 1, upper panel) and the insoluble fraction (Figure 3A, lanes 1, lower panel). Within 20 min of shift to 25°C, the level of the lower form is increased, especially in the soluble fraction (Figure 3A, upper panel, lane 2). By 40 min when the cells are at the end of mitosis, as determined by the loss of *p56<sup>cdc13</sup>* (Figure 3B, lane 3, upper panel), Y15-phosphorylated *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* is barely detectable (Figure 3A, lane 3, upper and lower panels).

Cell cycle changes were examined further using a synchronous wild-type culture prepared by elutriation (Aves *et al.*, 1985). The peak of septation occurred (Figure 4E) just before the increase in cell number (data not shown). The doublet is resolved in both fractions [Figure 4A (soluble) and B (insoluble)], but is clearer in the insoluble fraction. Both forms are clearly present at about equal levels for much of the cell cycle, but the upper form is reduced and the lower form increased in amount in lanes 2–4 and 9–11. These lanes represent cells proceeding through mitosis into G<sub>1</sub>, indicating that a reduction in tyrosine phosphorylation occurs during this stage of the cell cycle.

Although the changes are qualitatively similar in the two synchronous cultures, they differ quantitatively. In the selection synchronous culture, the upper Y15-phosphorylated form never exceeds the lower form and is usually somewhat lower in amount. In contrast, at the *cdc25-22* block point the upper form is substantially increased. To examine this point further, we monitored the levels of cyclin B, *p56<sup>cdc13</sup>*, using the SP4 antibody (Moreno *et al.*, 1989) during the same synchronous cultures (Figures 3B and 4C and D). In most eukaryotic cells cyclin B levels are periodic, becoming reduced as cells exit mitosis and *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* protein kinase activity falls. Interestingly, only a small reduction in the level of *p56<sup>cdc13</sup>* was observed in the selection synchronous culture as cells proceeded through mitosis. This drop is more clearly evident in the insoluble fraction (Figure 4D, lanes 3–4 and 10–11). The level in the soluble fraction (Figure 4C) shows some fluctuation, but the *p56<sup>cdc13</sup>* in this fraction is more unstable after cell breakage and degradation obscures the changes in level. In contrast, a dramatic drop was observed in the *cdc25-22* block and release synchronized culture, particularly with the soluble fraction (see tracks 2–3, Figure 3B, upper panel).

Evidence from other organisms shows that Y15 phosphorylation of *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* occurs when *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* is in a complex with cyclin B (Solomon *et al.*, 1990; Meijer *et al.*, 1991). This suggests that in a *cdc25-22* mutant at 36°C, when the majority of *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* is in the Y15-phosphorylated form (Figure 2A, lane 1 compared with lanes 2 and 3), a higher level of the *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup>* complex has accumulated. In *Xenopus*, binding to *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* has been shown to be necessary for degradation of cyclin B2 (Stewart *et al.*, 1994; van der Velden and Lohka, 1994). The differences we observe in the periodicity of cyclin levels between the two synchronization methods may be due to the amount of cyclin complexed with *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>* in these different situations. At the *cdc25-22* block in *S.pombe*, more *p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup>* complex may



**Fig. 4.** A synchronous culture was prepared using an elutriator rotor and protein samples were prepared every 20 min from time 0 min (lane 1) to 280 min (lane 13) from the soluble (A and C) and the insoluble (B and D) fractions. The peaks of septation are shown in (E). The protein was immunoblotted with PN24 (A and B) and SP4 (C and D) as shown by the arrows.

accumulate and it is this cyclin B that is degraded at the end of mitosis. It is possible that the increased amount of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> in the soluble fraction after release from the block (Figure 3A, lane 2, upper panel) and the greater level of cyclin B degradation in this fraction (Figure 3B, upper panel) may reflect a translocation of the complex before cyclin degradation into the soluble fraction. To test whether there is an increase in the level of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex, we used p13<sup>suc1</sup> beads (Brizuela *et al.*, 1987) to precipitate the complex from *cdc25-22* cells as they became blocked at the G<sub>2</sub>/M transition after shift to 36°C.

The precipitates were Western blotted with PN24 and SP4 to monitor the level of the complex. We found that by 2 h after the shift to the restrictive temperature cells were blocked at the G<sub>2</sub>/M border and there was an increase in the level of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complexed with p34<sup>cdc2</sup> compared with exponential growing cells (Figure 2D, lane 1 compared with lanes 2 and 3). The higher level of complex detected in *cdc25-22* arrested cells may reflect an accumulation of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex, supporting the proposal that only the p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complexed with p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is degraded at mitosis.

### ***p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is not rephosphorylated on Y15 until cells have completed start***

The above experiments demonstrate that at mitosis  $p34^{cdc2}$  becomes dephosphorylated on Y15 and suggest that on exit from mitosis  $p34^{cdc2}$  does not become immediately phosphorylated on Y15. Sixty minutes after shifting down *cdc25-22* to 25°C, when mitosis is complete, phosphorylation on Y15 is not detected (Figure 3A, lane 4, upper and lower panels). The selection synchronous culture indicates that Y15 phosphorylation occurs as cells proceed through G<sub>1</sub> into S phase (Figure 4A and B, lanes 4 and 11). To examine this further, several cell cycle mutants were used to block cells at G<sub>1</sub> prior to start (*cdc10-129*) and in late G<sub>1</sub> after start (*cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45*) (Nurse *et al.*, 1976). At the *cdc10-129* block 4 h after shifting to the restrictive temperature of 36°C, only the lower Y15 dephosphorylated form is observed (Figure 5B, lane 9, lower panel), whilst in a post-start block in G<sub>1</sub> imposed by *cdc20-M10* or *cdc22-M45* the upper Y15-phosphorylated form is present (Figure 5B, lanes 3 and 6, lower panel). The Y15-phosphorylated form of  $p34^{cdc2}$  appears as cells pass start. The fluorescent-activated cell scanning (FACS) profile for each mutant (Figure 5A) shows that all three mutants arrest by 4 h after shift up with predominantly a 1C DNA content. In these experiments, there was no significant difference between the phosphorylation state of  $p34^{cdc2}$  between the soluble and insoluble fractions or any major change in the level of  $p34^{cdc2}$  in these two fractions (data not shown).

As previously described, Y15 phosphorylation of  $p34^{cdc2}$  only occurs when it is in a complex with cyclin B, suggesting that the complex is formed after start in late G<sub>1</sub>. We investigated whether the complex was present in the *cdc10-129*, *cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45* mutants by precipitating  $p34^{cdc2}$  with p13<sup>suc1</sup> beads, and Western blotting with PN24 and SP4. In exponential growth and at time points as the cells from the asynchronous cultures gradually undergo cell cycle arrest, the complex is detectable (Figure 5C, lanes 1–3, 5–7 and 9–11). In a *cdc10-129* mutant, 4 h after shift up, only a very low level of the complex can be detected (Hayles *et al.*, 1994, and Figure 5C, lane 12), whereas in extracts from *cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45* the complex is easily detected after 4 h at 36°C when the majority of the cells are still in G<sub>1</sub> (Figure 5C, lanes 4 and 8). This result indicates that the  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  complex is not present in pre-start cells.

The lack of  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  complex is due in part at least to the low level of  $p56^{cdc13}$  found in G<sub>1</sub>. No  $p56^{cdc13}$  was detected in total protein extracts from *cdc10-129* cells arrested in G<sub>1</sub> after 4 h at 36°C (Figure 5B, lane 9, upper panel), whereas it is easily detected in the *cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45* cells after the same time at 36°C (Figure 5B, lanes 3 and 6, upper panel).

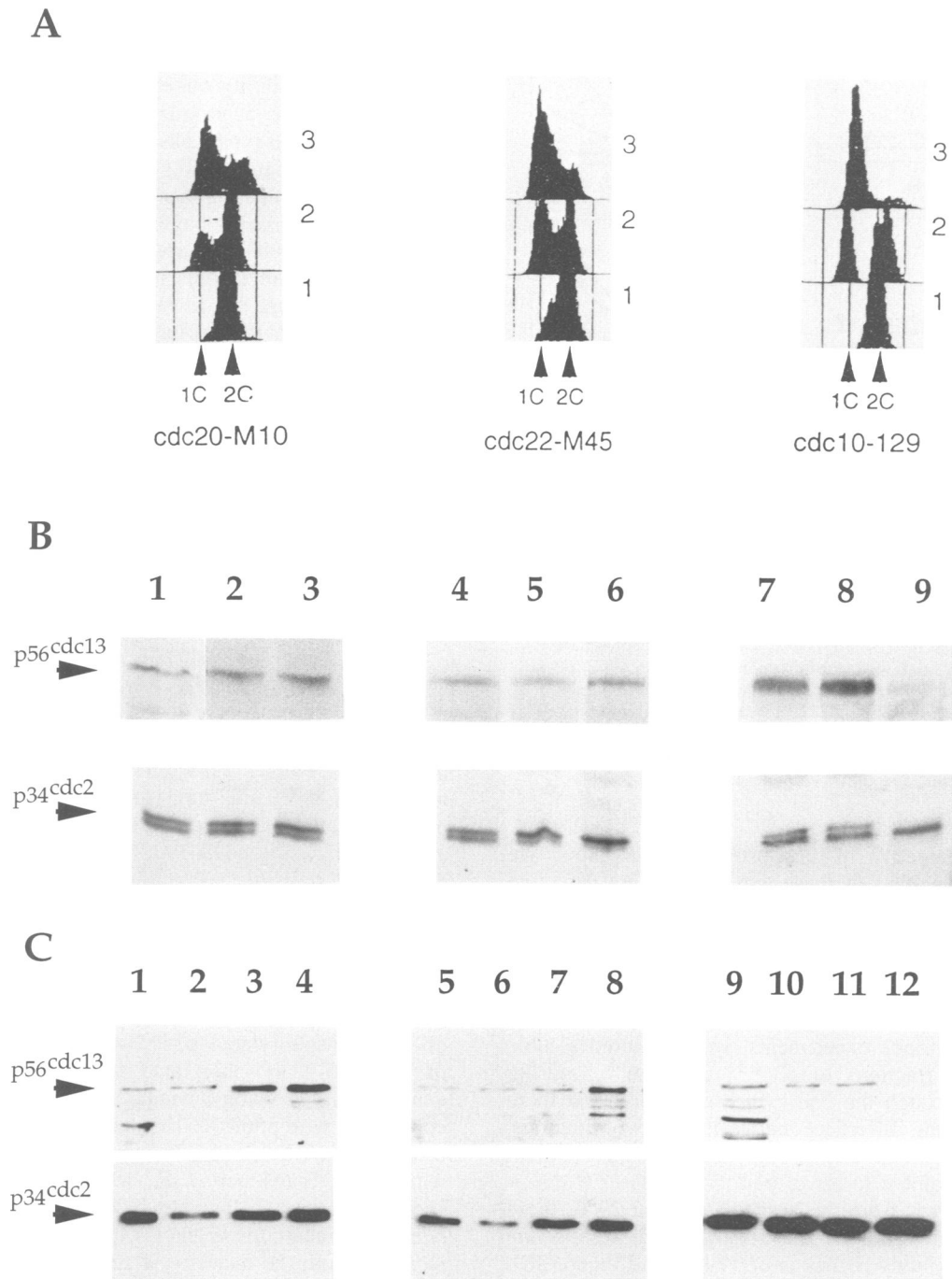
### ***A pre-start G<sub>1</sub> checkpoint does not affect the level of Y15 p34<sup>cdc2</sup> phosphorylation***

A checkpoint control has been identified that prevents entry into mitosis when DNA replication is blocked (Dasso and Newport, 1990; Enoch and Nurse, 1990; Al-Khodairy and Carr, 1992; Enoch *et al.*, 1992; Weinert and Hartwell, 1993). This checkpoint modulates the level of tyrosine phosphorylation of  $p34^{cdc2}$  (Dasso and Newport, 1990; Enoch *et al.*, 1991) and in *S.pombe* several genes have

been identified that are involved in the transduction of the signal from unreplicated DNA to  $p34^{cdc2}$  preventing the initiation of mitosis (Al-Khodairy and Carr, 1992; Enoch *et al.*, 1992). A different checkpoint mechanism must be operative pre-start since, as shown above,  $p34^{cdc2}$  is already dephosphorylated on Y15 at this stage of the cell cycle and yet does not enter mitosis.

This conclusion is difficult to reconcile with the report that when cells with  $p34^{cdc2}$  completely dephosphorylated on Y15 are blocked at start using a *cdc10-129 mik1Δ weel-50* mutant, they can enter mitosis (Lundgren *et al.*, 1991). If  $p34^{cdc2}$  is already dephosphorylated on Y15, then eliminating the kinases responsible should have no effect. Interpretation of these experiments is complicated by the fact that *cdc10<sup>s</sup>* cells can eventually leak past the start block point (our unpublished observations and see later). Therefore we have examined the *mik1Δ weel-50* mutant further using the *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ weel-50* mutant because the *cdc10-V50* allele blocks more effectively (Reymond *et al.*, 1992). Wild-type, *cdc10-V50*, *mik1Δ weel-50* and *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ weel-50* strains were nitrogen starved to arrest them in G<sub>1</sub> (see Figure 7A, panels 1, 2, 7 and 8, time 0 h), and were then inoculated into minimal medium at 36°C. Septation index, cell number and FACS analysis samples were taken at 1 hourly intervals. We found that the *mik1Δ weel-50* mutant started to septate at ~4 h (Figure 6A, left-hand panel) and that wild-type cells septate at ~5 h. Both strains showed an increase in cell number at ~5 h, although the increase in cell number in the *mik1Δ weel-50* strain was slower (Figure 6A, right-hand panel) because the cells were going through an aberrant mitosis (Figure 7B, panel 1) and were slow to undergo cell separation. These cells show a variety of mitotic abnormalities, including a cut phenotype (Hirano *et al.*, 1986) when the nucleus is severed by the septum or a single nucleus on one side of the septum. No septation was seen in the *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ weel-50* strain until 7–8 h and no cell number increase occurred during the course of the experiment (Figure 6A), showing that the *mik1Δ weel-50* strain arrested pre-start does not enter mitosis. The appearance of septa in the *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ weel-50* strain at the end of the experiment corresponded to the time at which the *cdc10-V50* strain started to leak through the cell cycle block (see Figure 7A, panel 8, time 7 h). The *cdc10-V50* and the *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ weel-50* strains became elongated (Figure 7B, panels 2 and 8) compared with the *mik1Δ weel-50* and wild-type strains (Figure 7B, panels 1 and 7), indicating that these cells are blocked in cell cycle progression and were not going into mitosis. From these data, we conclude that, contrary to earlier reports, the *mik1Δ weel-50* strain cannot enter a premature mitosis from the pre-start interval in G<sub>1</sub>.

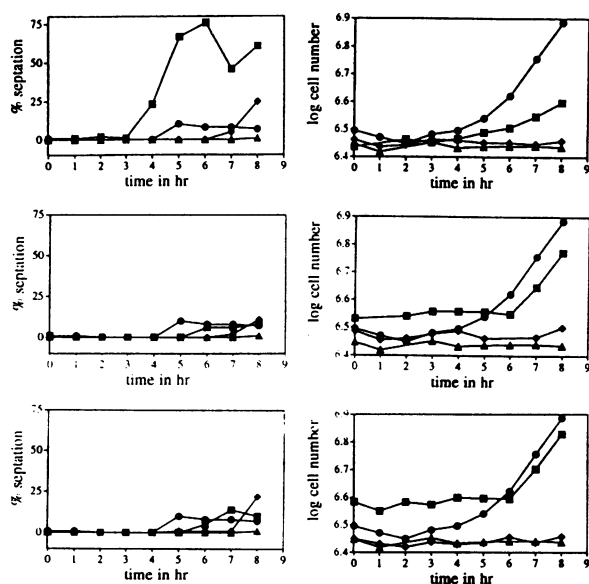
We have examined two other checkpoint mutants, *chk1Δ (rad27)* (Walworth *et al.*, 1993; Al-Khodairy *et al.*, 1994) and *hus1-14* (Enoch *et al.*, 1992), to see if these are defective in the pre- or post-start checkpoint. The *hus1-14* mutant enters mitosis when DNA replication is blocked with hydroxyurea and is also radiation sensitive; *chk1Δ(rad27)* arrests normally in hydroxyurea, but enters mitosis when DNA is damaged. The mutants were crossed into a *cdc10-V50* strain and then treated as for the *mik1Δ weel-50* strains. The single mutants undergo S phase and cell division slightly later than the wild-type strain (Figure



**Fig. 5.** (A) FACS samples of *cdc20-M10*, *cdc22-M45* and *cdc10-129* mutants were taken after shifting to 36°C for 0 h (1), 2 h (2) and 4 h (3). By 4 h, the majority of the cells had arrested in G<sub>1</sub>, although there was some leak through in the *cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45* mutants. (B) Protein from the soluble fraction of *cdc20-M10* (lanes 1-3), *cdc22-M45* (lanes 4-6) and total protein from *cdc10-129* (lanes 7-9) was prepared from exponentially growing cells (lanes 1, 4 and 7) and after shift up at 2 h (lanes 2, 5 and 8) and 4 h (lanes 3, 6 and 9). The protein was immunoblotted with SP4 (upper panel) and PN24 (lower panel). The arrows show the protein. The Western blot using SP4 (lanes 7-9) was developed for longer to show that only very low levels of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> are detected after 4 h at 36°C. (C) Precipitates of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex were carried out using p13<sup>suc1</sup> beads from *cdc20-M10* (lanes 1-4), *cdc22-M45* (lanes 5-8) and *cdc10-129* (lanes 9-12). In precipitates from exponentially growing cells from each strain (lanes 1, 5 and 9) the complex can be seen. After 2 h at 36°C (lanes 2, 6 and 10) and 3 h at 36°C (lanes 3, 7 and 11), the complex is still present but is reduced in level in the *cdc10-129* strain, and by 4 h (lanes 4, 8 and 12) the complex is barely detected in the *cdc10-129* strain but is still clearly detected in *cdc20-M10* and *cdc22-M45*. The arrows show the proteins.

6B and C, and Figure 7, panels 3, 5 and 7, time 4 h). However, *cdc10-V50 chk1Δ*, *cdc10-V50 hus1-14* and *cdc10-V50* became arrested at the *cdc10* block point (Figure 7A, panels 4, 6 and 8) and started to elongate (Figure 7B, panels 4, 6 and 8). There was no evidence of

entry into mitosis until 7 h when the *cdc10-V50* mutant had just started to leak through the block, as indicated by a small fraction of cells with a greater than 1C DNA content (Figure 7A, panel 8, 7 h). These double mutants then start to septate (Figure 6B and C, left-hand panels)



**Fig. 6.** Per cent septation (left-hand panel) and  $\log_{10}$  cell number increase (right-hand panel) for (A) *mik1Δ wee1-50* (closed squares), *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ wee1-50* (closed diamonds), wild type (972) (closed circles) and *cdc10-V50* (closed triangles), (B) *chk1Δ(rad27)* (closed squares), *cdc10-V50 chk1Δ(rad27)* (closed diamonds), wild type (972) (closed circles) and *cdc10-V50* (closed triangles) and (C) *hus1-14* (closed squares), *cdc10-V50 hus1-14* (closed diamonds) wild type (972) (closed circles) and *cdc10-V50* (closed triangles).

as they are defective in the post-start checkpoints. We conclude that neither of these two mutants are defective in a pre-start  $G_1$  checkpoint since they do not enter mitosis when arrested at the *cdc10-V50* block point.

#### **During re-replication the predominant form of $p34^{cdc2}$ is found in an insoluble cellular fraction**

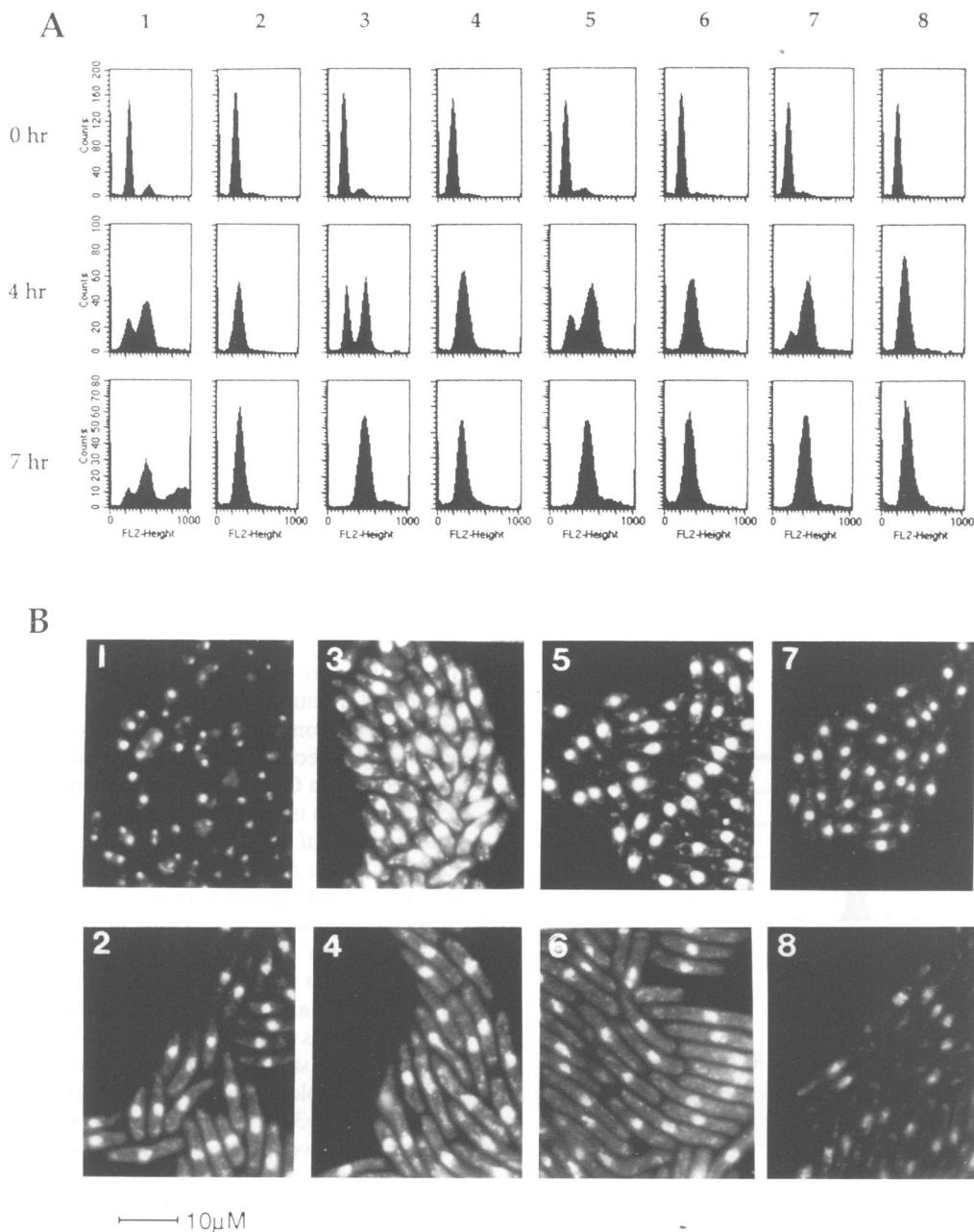
During the previous experiments, we monitored soluble and insoluble fractions of  $p34^{cdc2}$  and  $p56^{cdc13}$  during progression through the cell cycle, and found that there is no significant difference between the two fractions. During heat treatment of the temperature-sensitive mutant *cdc2-L7*, the soluble forms of  $p34^{cdc2}$  and  $p56^{cdc13}$  disappear. On recovery from the heat treatment at  $29^\circ\text{C}$ , these cells reset from  $G_2$  to  $G_1$  and undergo S phase, causing an increase in ploidy [Broek *et al.* (1991) and Figure 8C]. This resetting from  $G_2$  to  $G_1$  is associated with loss of the  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  mitotic complex (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). We repeated this experiment and looked to see what happened to the insoluble fractions of  $p34^{cdc2}$  and  $p56^{cdc13}$  upon recovery at  $29^\circ\text{C}$ . We found that both proteins remained detectable throughout the recovery time course (Figure 8A and B, lower panels). Around the time of S phase, there is a reduction in the level of  $p56^{cdc13}$  from the insoluble fraction (Figure 8A, lower panel, lane 3), consistent with the low level of  $p56^{cdc13}$  observed in late  $G_1$  (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). The soluble form of  $p34^{cdc2}$  only began to appear around the time of S phase (Figure 8B, upper panel, lane 4) and the soluble form of  $p56^{cdc13}$  was still not detectable at this time (Figure 8A, upper panel). This result supports the earlier data showing that the resetting from  $G_2$  to  $G_1$  is correlated with disappearance of the soluble fraction of  $p34^{cdc2}$  (Broek *et al.*, 1991) and

suggests that it is the insoluble fraction of  $p34^{cdc2}$  which persists that may be responsible for the  $G_1$  function of  $p34^{cdc2}$ . This possibility was examined further in a situation where cells have a protracted  $G_1$  phase. Germinating spores from wild-type cells undergo S phase  $\sim 5\text{--}8$  h (Nurse and Thuriaux, 1977) after addition of medium at  $32^\circ\text{C}$ . In the germinating spores, we found that the soluble fraction of  $p34^{cdc2}$  only begins to appear around the time of S phase (Figure 8D, upper panel, lane 4), whereas the insoluble form is present from the beginning of the experiment (Figure 8D, lower panel). These data support the suggestion that the insoluble fraction may be functional for the start activity of  $p34^{cdc2}$ .

## **Discussion**

Tyrosine phosphorylation of  $p34^{cdc2}$  in *S.pombe* inhibits activation of the  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  complex (Gould and Nurse, 1989). In higher eukaryotes, threonine 14 is also phosphorylated and this, in conjunction with Y15 phosphorylation, prevents activation of the mitotic complex (Krek and Nigg, 1991; Norbury *et al.*, 1991). The Y15 inhibitory phosphorylation of  $p34^{cdc2}$  does not take place until the  $p34^{cdc2}/\text{cyclin B}$  complex has formed (Solomon *et al.*, 1990; Meijer *et al.*, 1991). Tyrosine phosphorylation of  $p34^{cdc2}$  in *S.pombe* has previously been demonstrated using anti-phosphotyrosine antibodies or  $^{32}\text{P}$  labelling (Gould and Nurse, 1989). These methods have given no indication of the total amount of  $p34^{cdc2}$  that is phosphorylated on Y15 compared with Y15 unphosphorylated levels. Using SDS-PAGE to resolve  $p34^{cdc2}$  as a doublet, we have been able to estimate the level of Y15-phosphorylated and dephosphorylated  $p34^{cdc2}$  at different stages of the cell cycle. As cells pass synchronously through the cell cycle, the level of Y15-phosphorylated  $p34^{cdc2}$  oscillates, becoming reduced during mitosis and  $G_1$ , and increased as cells proceed through  $G_2$ . The level of Y15-phosphorylated  $p34^{cdc2}$  never exceeds the level of the Y15-dephosphorylated form, suggesting that in exponentially growing *S.pombe* cells not all the  $p34^{cdc2}$  is complexed with  $p56^{cdc13}$ . This also appears to be the case in sea urchin, where only a fraction of  $p34^{cdc2}$  is complexed with cyclin B (Meijer *et al.*, 1991). However, we have shown that in a cell cycle block imposed by using a *cdc25-22* mutant, the level of Y15-phosphorylated  $p34^{cdc2}$  increases until the majority of  $p34^{cdc2}$  is in this form and this increase is correlated with an increase in the level of  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  complex.

$p56^{cdc13}$  levels oscillate during the cell cycle in a selection synchronous culture, particularly in the insoluble fraction, but there was no evidence that either the soluble or insoluble fractions were completely degraded at mitosis. In contrast, in extracts prepared from blocking and releasing a *cdc25-22* strain all the soluble  $p56^{cdc13}$  is degraded at the end of mitosis and the insoluble fraction is reduced in level (Figure 3B, bottom panel). Given that the level of the  $p34^{cdc2}/p56^{cdc13}$  complex is increased, it is likely that it is the  $p56^{cdc13}$  in the complex which is degraded at mitosis. Cells containing a greater proportion of  $p56^{cdc13}$  in the mitotic complex will show a greater  $p56^{cdc13}$  degradation after mitosis. If this view is correct, then we would expect that only some of  $p56^{cdc13}$  is complexed with  $p34^{cdc2}$  in a pre-activatable MPF complex in normal



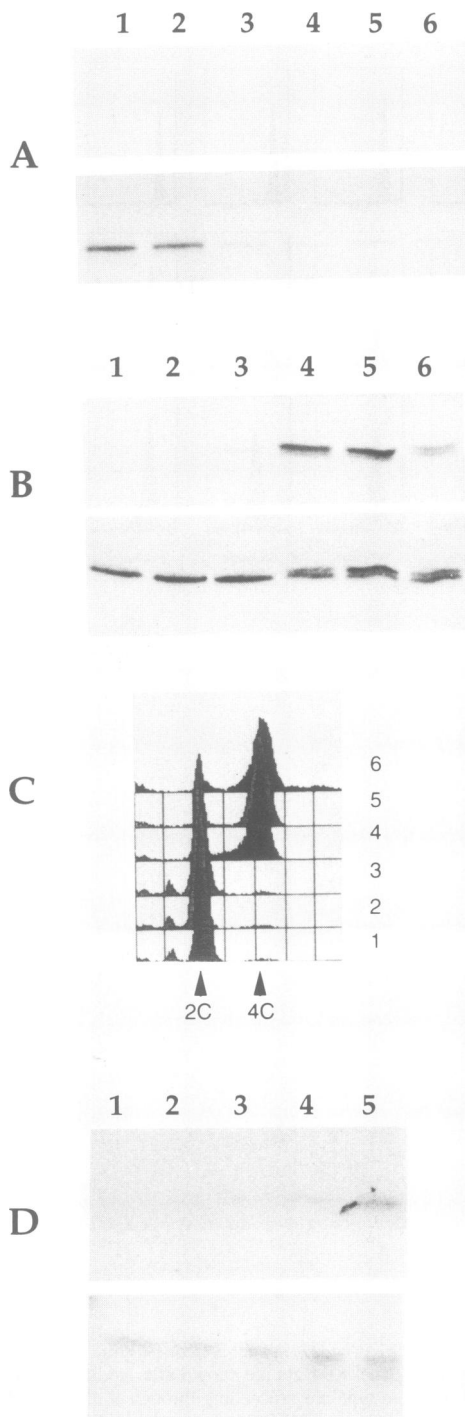
**Fig. 7.** (A) FACS analysis of *mik1Δ wee1-50* (panel 1), *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ wee1-50* (panel 2), *chk1Δ (rad27)* (panel 3), *cdc10-V50 chk1Δ (rad27)* (panel 4), *hus1-14* (panel 5), *cdc10-V50 hus1-14* (panel 6), wild type (panel 7) and *cdc10-V50* (panel 8). Data are shown after addition of nitrogen after 0 h at 36°C (top row), after 4 h at 36°C when the mutants in a *cdc10*<sup>+</sup> background and wild type are proceeding through S phase (middle row), and after 7 h at 36°C (bottom row) when the *chk1Δ (rad27)*, *hus1-14* mutants and wild type have a 2C DNA content, *mik1Δ wee1-50* has cut and cells have from a <1C to 4C DNA content. The mutants in a *cdc10-V50* background and *cdc10-V50* have a predominantly 1C DNA content, but a small shoulder of S phase cells appears in the *cdc10-V50* mutant at 7 h, indicating a leak through the block point. The 1C peak is at 250 on the x-axis and the 2C peak at 500. There is some drift of the peaks when the cells are elongating (panels 2, 4, 6 and 8) (Sazer and Sherwood, 1990). (B) Cells after 7 h at 36°C: (1) *mik1Δ wee1-50*, (2) *cdc10-V50 mik1Δ wee1-50*, (3) *chk1Δ (rad27)*, (4) *cdc10-V50 chk1Δ (rad27)*, (5) *hus1-14*, (6) *cdc10-V50 hus1-14*, (7) wild type, (8) *cdc10-V50*. By 7 h all the mutants in a *cdc10*<sup>+</sup> background and wild type had started to undergo cell division, whereas the mutants in a *cdc10-V50* background and *cdc10-V50* showed no increase in cell number and were elongating.

exponentially growing cells. This suggests that the rate-limiting step for the formation of the complex in these cells is not simply the levels of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> or cyclin B, and that the formation of the complex is regulated by some as yet unidentified process.

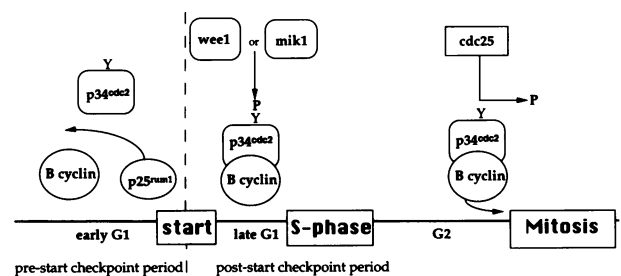
What happens to Y15 phosphorylation of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> after cells exit from mitosis and when does the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex reform? We cannot detect any p34<sup>cdc2</sup> Y15

phosphorylation or p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex in cells arrested at the *cdc10-129* block point in G<sub>1</sub> at start, whilst Y15-phosphorylated p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex are present in cells blocked after start using the *cdc20-M10* or *cdc22-M45* mutants. It has previously been shown that if a complex between p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> is made in cells blocked in G<sub>1</sub> at start, then the cells can enter mitosis without undergoing DNA replication (Hayles *et al.*,





**Fig. 8.** A *cdc2-L7* strain was heat treated and then allowed to re-replicate its DNA at 29°C. Protein samples from the soluble (A and B, upper panels) and the insoluble (A and B, lower panels) fractions were prepared at 0 h (lane 1), 1 h (lane 2), 2 h (lane 3), 3 h (lane 4), 4 h (lane 5) and 5 h (lane 6) after shifting to the permissive temperature of 29°C. The protein was immunoblotted with SP4 (A) and PN24 (B). FACS samples were taken at the same time points (C). Re-replication occurs between 2 and 3 h after shift down. (D) Soluble (upper panel) and insoluble protein (lower panel) extracts from germinating wild-type spores, lane 1 at 2 h, lane 2 at 4 h, lane 3 at 6 h, lane 4 at 8 h and lane 5 at 10 h, after inoculating into minimal medium at 32°C. S phase occurred between 6 and 8 h.



**Fig. 9.** Model of pre- and post-start checkpoint controls in fission yeast cell cycle. In G<sub>1</sub>, no p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex is present and only a low level of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> is present. The inhibition of complex formation may involve the activity of the *rum1* gene product, p25<sup>rum1</sup>. As cells pass start, the level of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> increases and p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup> complex forms and is phosphorylated on Y15 by p107<sup>wee1</sup> and the *mik1* gene product, thus preventing premature entry into mitosis. When cells have completed S phase and reach the cell size requirement for mitosis, p80<sup>cdc25</sup> dephosphorylates Y15, the complex is activated and cells enter mitosis. Checkpoints preventing entry into mitosis act pre-start by inactivation of the p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/cyclin B complex, perhaps by disruption of the complex or turnover of cyclin B, and post-start through the Y15 state of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>.

1994). The pre-start G<sub>1</sub> checkpoint may act to prevent complex formation. The *rum1* gene product prevents entry into mitosis from G<sub>1</sub> (Moreno and Nurse, 1994) and could act by affecting complex formation between p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> in G<sub>1</sub>, perhaps by influencing the turnover of p56<sup>cdc13</sup> which is found only at a very low level [this paper and Hayles *et al.* (1994)]. In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the turnover of the mitotic B cyclin, CLB2, protein continues during G<sub>1</sub> until start (Amon *et al.*, 1994) and it is possible that a similar mechanism occurs in *S.pombe*. After passage of start, when cells become committed not only to S phase, but also to the subsequent mitosis, p56<sup>cdc13</sup> begins to accumulate and a complex forms between p56<sup>cdc13</sup> and p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. This is kept inactive by Y15 phosphorylation of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>. After start, a new checkpoint is activated which monitors completion of DNA replication and acts through the state of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> Y15 phosphorylation. From these experiments, we propose that two different checkpoint controls act during the cell cycle, one pre-start and the other post-start, which act sequentially to prevent mitosis until S phase is completed (see Figure 9). Cells that are defective in the pre-start checkpoint, such as *rum1Δ cdc10-129*, enter mitosis when blocked pre-start, but if these cells leak past start they block in S phase and do not enter mitosis because the post-start checkpoint is still functional (Moreno and Nurse, 1994).

We have shown that *mik1Δ wee1-50* is not defective in the pre-start G<sub>1</sub> checkpoint. When arrested at the *cdc10* block point in G<sub>1</sub>, the cells elongate and do not enter mitosis. As the cells leak through the block point, then the mutant can enter premature mitosis as the cells are defective in the post-start checkpoint. The signal affecting Y15 phosphorylation and preventing entry into mitosis in these post-start cells may be generated by the replication complex and involve the *cdc18*, *cut5/rad4* gene and *cdt1* products (Kelly *et al.*, 1993; Saka and Yanagida, 1993; Hofmann and Beach, 1994).

The checkpoint monitoring DNA damage is thought to act through a different pathway, but to have overlapping functions with the checkpoint monitoring completion of

DNA replication (Sheldrick and Carr, 1993). The radiation checkpoint is thought not to act through Y15 phosphorylation of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>/p56<sup>cdc13</sup>, but to inactivate the complex some other way. It may be that the mechanism used for this checkpoint is the same as that used for the pre-start checkpoint, and in this case we might expect mutants to be identified that are defective both pre- and post-start. However, we do not believe that mutants of *chk1Δ* (*rad27*) and *hus1-14* are defective pre-start. The *chk1Δ* (*rad27*) mutant has been postulated to be defective in both pre- and post-start checkpoints, but not in the monitoring of completion of DNA synthesis (Sheldrick and Carr, 1993). We have re-examined this mutant and find that under the conditions that we use, it becomes blocked at the *cdc10-V50* arrest point pre-start, continues to elongate and does not enter mitosis until cells leak through the *cdc10* block point.

The checkpoint control restraining mitosis from early G<sub>1</sub> may also function in higher eukaryotes. In mammalian cells, p34<sup>CDC2</sup> is thought to be dephosphorylated on tyrosine during G<sub>1</sub> (Morla *et al.*, 1989), and yet they do not enter mitosis from G<sub>1</sub>. It is possible that in mammalian cells the p34<sup>CDC2</sup> and cyclin B complex formation is inhibited in G<sub>1</sub> to prevent inappropriate entry into mitosis by an analogous mechanism to that operative in *S.pombe*.

p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> are found in an insoluble as well as a soluble cell fraction (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). The nature of the insoluble fraction is not known, but may be derived from the cytoskeleton (Wittenberg *et al.*, 1987) or the nuclear matrix (Gallagher *et al.*, 1993). We have shown that the insoluble fraction may be associated with G<sub>1</sub> progression. The soluble form of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> disappears after nitrogen starvation and heat treatment (see Materials and methods) of the *cdc2-L7* and *cdc13-117* mutants, whereas the insoluble form is still present (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). Under these conditions, cells re-replicate their DNA. We have extended the study of the insoluble fraction of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> during re-replication in a *cdc2-L7* mutant. The insoluble fraction remains present throughout the course of re-replication at the permissive temperature, whereas the soluble fraction only begins to appear around the time of S phase. In germinating spores, we found that again the soluble form is barely detectable until around the time of S phase, whereas the insoluble form is present throughout G<sub>1</sub> in the germinating wild-type spores. Although we cannot rule out that a low level of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> soluble fraction is sufficient to bring about DNA replication, we find that the predominant form found when cells undergo S phase in germinating wild-type spores, and after heat treatment of the *cdc2-L7* mutant, is in the insoluble fraction.

The insoluble fraction may be derived from a cell compartment in which p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and p56<sup>cdc13</sup> are associated with other proteins which may stabilize them, thus making them less temperature sensitive and less prone to denaturation and degradation. This may be one of the reasons that *cdc2<sup>ts</sup>* mutants are less easy to block in G<sub>1</sub> at start than in G<sub>2</sub> (MacNeill *et al.*, 1991). The insolubility of this form of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> means that it is not readily available for biochemical analysis and has probably been excluded from previous studies. p34<sup>CDC28</sup> from *S.cerevisiae* (Wittenberg *et al.*, 1987) and a PSTAIRE reactive 34 kDa protein from mammalian cells have also been found in an insoluble

form (Bailly *et al.*, 1989), suggesting that this insoluble form of p34<sup>cdc2</sup> and possibly other cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs) may be found in other organisms. Given that a primary role for these CDKs in late G<sub>1</sub> is preparation of the cells for S phase (Cardoso *et al.*, 1993), the insoluble forms may be derived from the nuclear matrix where they would be closely associated with DNA replication.

## Materials and methods

### Yeast strains and media

All strains used were all derived from the wild-type strains 972h<sup>-</sup> and 975h<sup>+</sup> (Hayles and Nurse, 1992). All media were prepared as previously described (Moreno *et al.*, 1991).

### Yeast methods

FACS and cell number counting are described in Moreno *et al.* (1991). Septa were counted using Calcafluor (Mitchison and Nurse, 1985), DNA was stained using DAPI (4',6, diamidino-2-phenylindole). Temperature shift experiments were all carried out as previously described in Moreno and Klar (1991). The synchronous culture was prepared using an elutriator rotor (Aves *et al.*, 1985) and spore germination as described in Moreno *et al.* (1989). The heat treatment experiments were performed according to Broek *et al.* (1989). An exponentially growing culture of *cdc2-L7* was shifted to 36°C in medium lacking a nitrogen source for 4.5 h, heat treated for 45 min at 49°C, then shifted down to 29°C in yeast extract medium. Samples were taken at 1 h intervals during recovery.

### Protein methods

The soluble and insoluble fractions were prepared as previously described (Hayles *et al.*, 1994). SDS-PAGE using a 12.5% 18 cm gel, prepared from a 30:0.8 acrylamide:bis acrylamide solution using >99% pure SDS from Sigma (L-6026) or Gibco BRL (5525UB), was carried out as described in Laemmli (1970). The gel was electrophoresed at 30 mA/gel with cooling until the 14 kDa marker had run off the bottom of the gel. Western blotting was carried out using Immobilon P (Millipore) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The blots were probed with either anti-*cdc2* antibody PN24 (Simanis and Nurse, 1986) or anti-*cdc13* antibody SP4 (Moreno *et al.*, 1989) and the protein visualized using alkaline phosphatase-conjugated anti-rabbit secondary antibody (Sigma) or ECL (Amersham) for p13<sup>suc1</sup> precipitates. We have found that the doublet is not always easily resolved and may sometimes run as a broad band. A procedure using Sigma SDS has been used to resolve the difference between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  tubulins using one-dimensional PAGE (Best *et al.*, 1981). We have tried >95% pure Sigma SDS (L5750) and find that the doublet is more easily resolved, but that the bands are rather smeared.

Immunoprecipitations were prepared as described in Gould and Nurse (1989) and p13<sup>suc1</sup> precipitates were carried out as described in Hayles *et al.* (1994). These were electrophoresed and Western blotted, then probed with either PN24, SP4 or anti-phosphotyrosine antibody PY72 (a gift from T.Hunter and R.Schulte).

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