Mechanically induced topological transition of spectrin regulates its distribution in the mammalian cell cortex

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Supplementary Information

B

Supplementary Figure 1 A) Experimental pipeline implemented to analyze the distribution of fluorescence intensities shown in Figure 1B. Background-subtracted TIRFM images (50 pixels radius, scale bar 20 µm) were used to generate a binary cell mask; single channel images were downsampled to 1 pixel = 1 μ m², intensities were averaged during the rescaling. Intensity distributions for each single channel image was obtained within the cell mask, with the total pixel count matching the cell area in μ m². Frequency distributions for n=40 cells were merged and shown in Figure 1D. Fiji histogram output related to single-cell intensity distribution is shown. Different downsampling factors were applied on the cell shownto exclude biases. B) Representative analysis of P_{0.95} signal intensity. Background-subtracted (50 pixels radius) and noise filtered images were thresholded by considering only pixels with the 5% most intense signal ($P_{0.95}$ of total signal intensity distribution). Particle analysis was then performed to extract area and shape descriptor parameters. Representative mask images for BII-spectrin (green) and F-actin (phalloidin magenta) are shown, with corresponding $P_{0.95}$ masks (scale bar $20 \mu m$).

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Supplementary Figure 2 A) Western blot analysis of different clonal populations highlighted the complete depletion of β II-spectrin in clones 8, 9, 10, but not clone 15 and parental MEF +/+. Interestingly, expression levels of aII-spectrin were severely reduced in *sptbn1* KO clones. B-C) Time course internalization of rhodamine-labelled transferrin in different clonal populations (n = 248-432(+/+), 346-253(Cl.8), 249-209(Cl.9), 224-169(Cl.10) and 125- 112(Cl.15) cells in 2 independent experiments, data are presented as mean ± SD, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, **** p value < 0.0001). Results are presented at t 0' (negative control) and the end point of the experiments (t 30') in B, and at different time steps for each clonal population compared to MEF +/+ independently in C (n > 100 cells in 2 independent experiments, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, * p value < 0.05, **** p value < 0.0001). Membrane Fragility was measured by exposing different clonal populations to Ringer's buffers with different fractional osmolarity. Given the noisy nature of the kinetic analyses, results are presented by fitting the curves with one-phase exponential equation to obtain the Normalized Fragility Indexes (corresponding to the plateau of the fitting, see Supplementary Table 2) and the confidence intervals ($Cl_{0.95%}$). Overall, *sptbn1* KO MEFs displayed increased fragility upon exposure to 0.5x hypotonic media. Interestingly *sptbn1* KO Clone 8 displayed increased fragility also in isotonic conditions (n=6 independent experiments).

Supplementary Figure 3 A) Representative Confocal and STED images of NGN2-hiPSC cortical neurons at day 18 of differentiation, immunolabelled for bII-spectrin. When individual axons were observed, 1-1.5 µm long segments were analyzed for epitope spacing by 2D autocorrelation. Average peak-to-peak distance resulted 187 ± 4.7 nm (n = 5). B) Representative Confocal and dual-color STED images of MEFs immunolabelled for BII-spectrin (green) and phalloidin (F-actin, magenta) are shown. The same images are presented after deconvolution. C) Line scan analysis of signal intensities, corresponding to the black boxes (2 and 3), are reported and highlighted the improvement in resolution for F-actin (3). Spectrin signal in the ventral side of the cell, showed mild improvement in resolution between confocal and raw STED images (2). After deconvolution, clusters were analyzed but failed to show substantial improvement compared to confocal analysis or the F-actin counterpart. D-E) Only occasional periodicity (arrowheads) in the β II-spectrin channel after deconvolution could be observed at regions confined between stress fibers (4-5, white and black boxes). All images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 4 A) The estimate expansion factor for the ExM protocol was obtained by immunostaining fibronectin-coated microprinted lines with an anti-fibronectin antibody, and imaging was performed before and after expansion by confocal microscopy. The photolithography mask is designed with continuous lines of 4 μ m thickness and 12 μ m gaps. The profile plots are showing the expected 16.1 μ m peak-to-peak distance (12+4 μ m), and the resulting 65.9 μ m after gelation and expansion: \approx 4x expansion factor is achieved. B) Representative ExM image of MEFs immunolabelled for β II-spectrin (green) and α II-spectrin (magenta) is shown (scale bar 20 µm). Zooms (white dashed boxes) are shown to highlight the intermingled nature of the two epitopes. C) 2D cross correlation analysis of dual immunolabelled MEFs imaged by ExM (window size 50 x 50 pixels): β II-spectrin/ α II-spectrin (red) and β II-spectrin/ β -Actin (grey, data are presented as mean \pm SD, n= 7-9 cells, statistical analysis two-way ANOVA). D) ExM of murine RBCs immunolabelled for β I-spectrin (green) was performed. Local Maxima analysis and Nearest Neighbor Distance distributions was calculated to report the inter-epitope distance (368 \pm 129 nm, 92 \pm 32 nm when corrected for the 4x expansion factor, n= 8 cells). E) ExM of NGN2-hiPSC cortical neurons at different time points during differentiation, immunolabelled for β II-spectrin (green), α II-spectrin or adducin (magenta) and ExM-compatible phalloidin (yellow). The expected periodic pattern for β IIspectrin was identified and highlighted in zoom 1. Line scan analysis reported the expected bII-spectrin epitope inter-distance in neuronal axons for three independent neuronal patches. The periodic pattern was not identified for the other stainings. All images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 5 A) More representative ExM images of MEFs seeded on adherent microprinted pattern and immunolabeled for endogenous βII-spectrin (green) and actin (magenta). Black arrowheads indicate regions of spectrin accumulation without periodic organization (qualitative evaluation). B) Normalized coherency over time between the two fluorescent channels is reported for untreated cells ($n = 10$ cells), Jasplakinolide and Blebbistatin treatments (n = 11 cells). Pearson's correlation indexes between Spectrin and Actin signals over the time series are reported (data are presented as mean \pm SD, statistical analysis: one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, **** p value <0.0001). C) Autocorrelation coefficients of β II-spectrin signals in the field of view of ExM images are plotted for each treatment (n=15 independent images for Untreated and Jasplakinolide, n=7 independent images for Blebbistatin; data are presented as mean ± SD, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, ** p< 0.005). Additional representative images are shown for Jasplakinolide (D) and Blebbistatin (E) treated MEFs (scale bars = 20 μm). Zooms are highlighted by the dashed yellow boxes. Intensity line-scans across the yellow rectangles are shown in the graphs and refer to the effect of Jasplakinolide treatment. Nearest Neighbour Distance distribution of the βII-spectrin under Blebbistatin treatment is shown in E. All images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

NND [nm]

Supplementary Figure 6 A) ExM images of MEFs immunolabelled for endogenous BII-spectrin (green) and αII-spectrin (magenta) after treatment with different cytoskeleton-targeting compounds. Specifically, MEFs have been treated for 3-4 hours with CK666 (100 µM), Cucurbitacin E (5 nM), SMIFH2 (20 µM), Latrunculin A (1 µM), Cytochalasin B (1 µM) independently, for qualitative assessment of the global effect on the spectrin meshwork. B) Frequency distributions of the Nearest Neighbor Distances are calculated independently for the two epitopes (bII-spectrin in green and αII-spectrin in magenta), and average values are reported in the "real" scale and extrapolated from the expansion factor (red). The dual epitope mapping along the tertamer of the αII-spectrin antibody resulted in reduced NND distances in all the conditions tested. In the case of Latrunculin A treatment, NND failed to correctly discriminate between puncta due to the homogeneous clustered signal and the frequency adopted a peculiar one-tailed distribution for both bII-spectrin and αII-spectrin. All images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 7 A) Phase contrast time lapse microscopy of MEFs treated for 4 hours with Jasplakinolide 100 nM and Blebbistatin 10 uM. Cells were then followed for 16 hours after washout of the drugs to monitor the recovery of cell shape and motility (scale bare 100 μm). B-C) Live imaging by TIRF microscopy of MEFs transiently transfected with GFP-βIIspectrin (green) and RFP-actin (magenta), treated with Jasplakinolide 100 nM or Blebbistatin 10 µM. After 3-4 hours of treatment, cells were mounted in Ringer's buffer 1x and imaged for 14 hours by TIRFM, to monitor cell recovery after the washout of the drugs performed 5 minutes after the beginning of the time lapse. Relevant frames are shown (scale bare $20 \mu m$). All images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments. D-E-F) Cluster area normalized to the initial frames was plotted and the washout is indicated by the yellow dashed lines ($n = 6-7$ cells, data are presented as mean \pm SD). Discontinuous time on the x axis was required given the different kinetic of reactions between the two compounds. The reduction in cluster area after Jasplakinolide washout was visible after hours (5-6 hours), while Blebbistatin washout produced a transient increase within minutes.

Supplementary Figure 8 A) Mean inverted FRET ratio as a function of the mean Venus signal intensity (excitation at 514nm) per each cell analyzed in this study (n= 522, 512) are presented. Pearson's correlation coefficients suggests no correlation exist between total fluorescent signal and the resulting FRET ratio. B-C) Western blot analysis of total cell lysates after 3-4 hours treatment with cytoskeletal impairing drugs implemented in this study. Immunoblots with anti β II-spectrin and anti α II-spectrin antibodies exclude protein degradation and fragmentation upon treatments. Anti-Tubulin immunoblot is used as loading control. The same analysis was performed on MEFs transiently transfected with the two FRETbased constructs β II-spectrin FL and Δ ABD. Drug treatments did not produce differential degradation fragments compare to the control lane. D) Fractional osmotic shocks (1x-0.5x-1x) were performed in Ringer's media, and cell reaction recorded by live TIRFM (GFP-bII-spectrin (green) and RFP-actin (magenta), scale bar 20 μ m). Normalized Cluster Area of P_{0.95} signal intensities were calculated for both cytoskeletal elements and plotted in E (n = 5 cells in 2 independent experiments, data are presented as mean ± SD).

F) Initial configuration of a spectrin mesh (left) where bundles are represented by edges with a spring element and short-actin filaments are represented by the mesh nodes. The length of each bundle is smaller than the resting length, acting as a compressed spring and exerting a restorative (positive) force on the mesh, depicted by the color of the edges. The configuration of the spectrin mesh in the left evolves to a relaxed state (center), in which the force generated by the spectrin bundles is minimum (equilibration). The time to reach such a state is 60 seconds. Another initial configuration of the spectrin mesh with edges larger than the resting length, acting as stretched springs (right), also relaxes to the configuration shown in the middle. G) Histogram (also reported in Figure 6C) of the initial and final length of the spectrin bundles corresponding to the meshes in (F).

Supplementary Figure 9 A) MEFs transiently transfected with GFP-Myosin-IIA (blue), immunolabeled for βII-spectrin (green) and F-actin (phalloidin magenta), imaged by TIRFM (scale bar = 20 μm). Overlay and single channel images are shown, as well as zoom related to the white dashed box. The same microscopy analysis is performed on MEFs seeded on microfabricated adhesive lines (4 μm adhesive cross-section, 12 μm non-adhesive surface) to force cell and cytoskeletal polarization. Images are representative of at least 3 independent experiments. B) Correlation analysis between βII-spectrin and MLC pulses has been performed in the three sub-cellular zone reported in Figure 7A. Two different thresholds in the mCherry-MLC have been applied: one at low intensity (1000 Arb.unit) and one at high intensity (4000 Arb.unit). The resulting Pearson's correlation coefficients over time are plotted in C (n=15 independent frames, data are presented as mean ± SD, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, **** p value< 0.0001). Correlation coefficients color-coded for the three different zones are reported over time in D. E) Pearson's correlation coefficients in function of mCherry-MLC threshold stringency are reported for the three zones analyzed (n=15 independent frames, data are presented as mean \pm SD). Interestingly, spectrin-rich zone 3 (green), maintains high correlation with high intensity myosin puncta, corresponding to myosin pulses. In stress fiber-rich (blue) and heterogeneous zones (red), the correlation with spectrin decrease at high MLC intensity. This dual behaviour supports the preferential correlation of spectrin with MLC pulses at spectrin-rich cortical domains, rather than the spectrin association with long-lived MLC puncta associated with stress fibers. F) Representative TIRFM images of MEFs transiently transfected with GFP-βII-spectrin (green) and mCherryMLC (magenta, scale bar = 20 μm) during Blebbistatin washout experiments. Correlation between the two channels is reported in the graph, the vertical arrow indicates the washout of the drugs (t=0 minute). The recovery phase is then followed for 3000 minutes (continuous line indicates the presence of the drug in the media, dashed line indicates the washout phase; $n = 6$ independent cells, data are presented as mean \pm SD, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA). G) In the same dataset, P0.95 clusters have been segmented for both fluorescent channels. Overlap coefficients between the two channels are reported at the relevant frames previously analyzed ($n = 6$ independent cells, data are presented as mean \pm SD, statistical analysis one-way ANOVA), and highlight the same increase during myosin reactivation.

Supplementary Figure 10 Final configuration of the network in Figure 7F for single dynamic myosin (A) and double dynamic myosin (B), color-coded for the force generated by the spring element of the spectrin bundles (Eq. 3). C-D) Same as A-B but color-coded to represent the number of attached spectrin bundles per actin node. Histograms showing the number of spectrin bundles per short actin-filaments (E) and the length of the spectrin bundles in (F). G) Evolution of the myosin rods in the spectrin network over time, corresponding to the simulations in (A-B). Final configuration of the network in Figure 7F but with the stress fibers pulled together at slower (H, vA = 0.85 nm/s) or faster (L, vA = 2.56 nm/s) velocities. I) Evolution of the same network but with fixed focal adhesions throughout the simulation. M) Histogram showing the number of connected spectrin bundles per short-actin filament for the initial (blue) and final (orange) configuration of the network in Figure 7F and the configurations in H-L. The configuration of the meshwork depends on the feedback between the spectrin meshwork and the speed with which the stress fibers can move towards one another.

Supplementary Table 1: Fluorescence Intensity distribution analysis

Supplementary Table 2: Membrane Fragility Assay

Plateau 1.087 -9332 1.212 1.121 1.324

Supplementary Table 3: FRAP analysis

Supplementary Table 4: Model Parameters

Supplementary Table 5

cpst-βII-Spectrin FL This manuscript

RFP-Myosin Light Chain MBI

