







## **Figure Legends**

## **Figure S1.**

**(A)** Images of mitotic wildtype and pkl1Δ cells expressing mCherry-atb2p (tubulin) and sid4p-GFP (SPB marker). Wildtype mitotic cells show different spindles at different stages/lengths. Astral MTs are relatively short. In contrast, pkl1Δ cells have long astral MTs which protrude (yellow arrow) from the SPBs. Bar, 5 µm.

**(B)** Comparative plot of astral MT protrusion in wildtype and pkl1Δ cells. Where as wildtype cells show no astral MT protrusion, ~50% of pkl1Δ cells have astral MT protrusion, indicating spindle mal-formation [S1].

**(C)** Box plot of prophase velocities. Individual deletion klp6Δ and ase1Δ show different durations than wildtype. dam1Δ is similar to wildtype.

**(D)** Box plot of prophase-metaphase durations. Individual deletion klp6Δ, dam1Δ, and ase1Δ all show different durations than wildtype.

**(E)** Box plot of metaphase spindle lengths in response to the absence of the spindle assembly checkpoint proteins mad2p. Individual deletion mad2Δ resulted in similar metaphase spindle length compared to wildtype. In contrast, double-deletion klp5Δ:mad2Δ and dam1Δ:mad2Δ resulted in longer metaphase spindle lengths similar to klp5Δ and dam1Δ, respectively.

**(F)** Box plot shows prophase-metaphase duration in response to the absence of the spindle assembly checkpoint proteins mad2p. Individual mutants have prolonged prophase-metaphase durations compared to wildtype. In contrast, the double-mutants klp5Δ:mad2Δ and dam1Δ:mad2Δ have similar prophase-metaphase duration as wildtype.

# **Figure S2.**

(A) Spot assay for temperature sensitivity of fission yeast strains: wildtype, cut7-GFP<sup>3x</sup>, cut7.24<sup>ts</sup>, cut7.24<sup>ts</sup>-GFP<sup>3x</sup> (1), and cut7.24<sup>ts</sup>-GFP<sup>3x</sup> (2). At permissive temperature 30°C, all strains survive well. In contrast, at the non-permissive temperature 37°C, cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> is lethal IS2, S3]. However, when cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> is tagged with GFP, the new strains survive slightly better than cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> alone, suggesting that temperature-sensitivity is tenuous.

**(B)** Time-lapse images of wildtype, dam1Δ, klp5Δ and dam1-A8:klp5Δ mitotic cells expressing mCherry-atb2p (tubulin) and mis12p-GFP (kinetochore marker) at 37°C. Time 0 represents the transition from metaphase to anaphase A and anaphase B, where sister kinetochores (yellow arrow heads) are observed to separate to opposite poles, and the spindle elongates further. Note that the dam1-A8:klp5Δ failed to separate their kinetochores. Bar, 5 µm.

**(C)** Box plot of metaphase spindle lengths wildtype, dam1Δ, klp5Δ and dam1-A8:klp5Δ. Consistent with the force-balance or tug-of-war model, removal of individual dam1p or klp5p, which are passive and active inward force transducer, respectively, result in longer metaphase spindle lengths compared to wildtype. Further, inactivation of both dam1p and klp5p results in even longer metaphase spindle lengths compared to individual deletion.

**(D)** Comparative plot of spindle length versus time of wildtype (green) and klp5Δ:ase1Δ (red) cells. Similar to wildtype, klp5Δ:ase1Δ metaphase spindles plateau at ~3 µm length. However, the spindle elongation is unstable, varying from cell to cell.

**(E)** Comparative plot of spindle length versus time of wildtype (green) and dam1Δ:ase1Δ (red) cells. Similar to wildtype, dam1Δ:ase1Δ metaphase spindles plateau at ~3 µm length.

**(F)** Box plot of spindle prophase elongation velocities. Individual deletion klp6Δ, dam1Δ, and ase1Δ, as well as double-deletion klp5Δ:ase1Δ and dam1Δ:ase1Δ all show different velocities than wildtype.

#### **Figure S3.**

In an artificial mini-chromosome loss assay [S4], where cells which lose the artificial chromosome turn pink, we observed apparent rescue of chromosome segregation defects in double-deleted cells. Whereas wildtype has 0.07% of pink colonies, mutant ase1Δ has 0.88%, klp5Δ has 2.98%, and dam1Δ has 28.43% pink colonies (Fig. S3A), consistent with previous studies [S5-S7]. In contrast, klp5Δ:ase1Δ has 0.92% and dam1Δ:ase1Δ has 8.36% pink colonies, an apparent improvement in chromosome segregation (Fig. S3A). However, further analysis revealed that the mini-chromosome loss assay biases the results toward living cells, as dead cells cannot form colonies. Indeed, cell survival analysis revealed that wildtype and klp5Δ have similar ~100% survival rates, and mutant ase1Δ and dam1Δ have ~50% survival rate (Fig. S3B). Interestingly, while klp5Δ:ase1Δ has 86% survival rate, an improvement over ase1Δ alone, dam1Δ:ase1Δ has 37% survival rate, a significant decrease from dam1Δ alone (Fig. S3B). We thus conclude that rescuing spindle length by removing antagonistic forces can, in some cases, rescue chromosome segregation defects.

**(A)** Artificial mini-chromosome loss assays for wildtype and mutant cells. The double-deletion klp5Δ:ase1Δ and dam1Δ:ase1Δ appeared to have less chromosome loss than their respective single-deletion. However, this assay does not account for cell death on plates.

**(B)** Plot comparing cell survival on plates for the artificial mini-chromosome loss assays from Fig. S3A. Normalized wildtype cell survival is 100%. Individual deletion ase1Δ and dam1Δ have ~50% survival rate, while klp5Δ has similar survival rate as wildtype. Interestingly, the doubledeletion klp5Δ:ase1Δ appeared to have better survival rate than ase1Δ, but dam1Δ:ase1Δ has worse survival rate than either ase1Δ or dam1Δ.

# **Figure S4.**

**(A)** Time-lapse images of dam1Δ and dam1Δ:ase1Δ mitotic cells expressing mCherry-atb2p and CEN1-GFP at 23°C. Time 0 represents the transition from metaphase to anaphase A where sister kinetochores are observed to separate to opposite poles. No spindle shrinkage prior to the metaphase to anaphase transition was observed. Bar, 1  $\mu$ m.

**(B)** Comparative spindle length versus time plot of dam1Δ (green) and dam1Δ:ase1Δ (red) cells. Pole-to-pole distance was measured 4 minute before and 4 minutes after cells exhibit kinetochore separation to opposite poles. No spindle shrinkage prior to the metaphase to anaphase transition was observed.

**(C)** Time-lapse images of dam1Δ and dam1Δ:cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> mitotic cells expressing mCherry-atb2p and CEN1-GFP at 37°C. Time 0 represents the transition from metaphase to anaphase A where sister kinetochores are observed to separate to opposite poles. No spindle shrinkage prior to the metaphase to anaphase transition was observed. Bar, 1 µm.

**(D)** Comparative spindle length versus time plot of dam1Δ (green) and dam1Δ:cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> (red) cells. Pole-to-pole distance was measured 3.5 minute before and 3.5 minutes after cells exhibit kinetochore separation to opposite poles. No spindle shrinkage prior to the metaphase to anaphase transition was observed.

# **Table S1. List of** *S. pombe* **strains used in this study.**



#### **Experimental Procedures**

### **Strains and media**

Standard fission yeast media and techniques were used as described [S8]. Deletions were constructed by an established homologous recombination technique [S9]. Strains used in this study are listed in Table S1.

### **Microscopy**

Yeast cells were imaged with a Yokogawa spinning-disc confocal microscope equipped with Nikon PlanApo 100X/1.45 NA objective lens and a Hamamatsu cooled back-thinned CCDcamera or EM-CCD camera as previously described [S10]. Images were acquired and processed with MetaMorph 7.7 (www.MolecularDevices.com). For experiments involving cut7.24<sup>ts</sup> temperature shift, cells were first imaged at room temperature of 23<sup>o</sup>C then shifted to the non-permissive temperature of 35°C by either the fast microfluidic temperature device [S11], or 37°C by a home-built fast temperature box. To precisely indentify the transition from metaphase to anaphase, cdc13p-GFP signal disappearance from the spindle was used [S12]. Additional details of imaging conditions are provided for each figure in supplemental section.

### **Data Analysis**

Spindle lengths were measured by calculating pole-to-pole distances, whose x-y positions were automatically tracked by MTtrackJ plugin in ImageJ (www.imagej.gov) for Fig. 1D-F and 2D-E. Data were plotted as box plots generated with Kaleidagraph 4.0 (www.synergy.com). Each box encloses 50% of the data with the median value displayed as a line. The top and bottom of each box mark the minimum and maximum values within the data set that fall within an acceptable range. Any value outside of this range, called an outlier, is displayed as an individual point. Statistical analyses of data were performed using the Student's t-test for comparison between means, or Chi-squared test for comparison between frequencies in Microsoft Excel 2010.

#### **Imaging**

The precise live-cell imaging conditions are stated below for each figure. Fig. 1A, S1A, 3A, 4A, S4A: 3D timelapse stacks consisting of 11 optical sections of 0.5 µm spacing were collected every 1 min with 600-ms exposure for GFP and 800-ms exposure for mCherry.

Fig. 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C: Images were acquired every 1 min with 1000-ms exposure for both GFP and mCherry. Cell chambers were switched from 23°C (blue) to 35°C (red) with a microfluidic temperature control device.

Fig. S2B: Images were acquired every 40 sec with 1000-ms exposure for both GFP and mCherry. Cell chambers were switched from 23°C (blue) to 37°C (red) with a temperature control device.

Fig. 4C, S4C: 3D timelapse stacks consisting of 11 optical sections of 0.5 µm spacing were collected every 40 sec with 600-ms exposure for GFP and 800-ms exposure for mCherry.

#### **Minichromosome loss assay**

The assay was performed as previously described [S4]. Briefly, cells (600 cells based on OD measurements) containing the artificial mini-chromosome were plated onto selection plates YE4S and incubated at 30°C for 3 days. Total colonies and pink colonies were counted to provide cell survival frequencies and percentage of chromosome loss.

## **Spot assay**

For all strains, initial cell concentrations were normalized to OD=0.5. For each strain, successive dilutions of 1, 10<sup>-1</sup>, 10<sup>-2</sup>, 10<sup>-3</sup>, 10<sup>-4</sup>, 10<sup>-5</sup> were spotted at 3  $\mu$ L onto YE5S plates. Plates were incubated for 3 days at 30°C (control, permissive temperature) or at 37°C (test, non-permissive temperature).

## **References**

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