**Results**

**Tracking endocytic proteins in yeast**

Sla1 is a late-stage endocytic coat protein that is used throughout this work as a marker for movement of the membrane. In Fig.3.1B, the kymograph shows a patch of Sla1-GFP as it arrives at endocytic sites and moves into the cytoplasm. Actin-binding protein Abp1, which marks the actin network, arrives and also shows movement inwards. Rvs167, the scission-stage protein, has a relatively short lifetime, and shows a sharp jump into the cytoplasm.

Averaged centroid tracking in live cells, as described in Picco et al. 1, can quantify this movement and dynamics of endocytic proteins as the membrane invaginates and undergoes scission. Briefly described, yeast cells expressing fluorescently-tagged endocytic proteins are imaged at the equatorial plane. Since membrane invagination progresses perpendicularly to the plane of the plasma membrane, proteins patches that move inward with membrane invagination do so in the imaging plane. Centroids of a particular protein as it forms patches at endocytic sites are thus tracked in time and between 40-50 of these patches are averaged. This provides an averaged centroid that can be followed with high spatial and temporal resolution. When different endocytic proteins are simultaneously imaged with the abundant Abp1, Abp1 provides a frame of reference to which all the proteins can be now aligned. Averaged centroid tracking, and correlating these centroid movements with membrane shapes acquired by correlative light and electron microscopy (CLEM) allows us to understand the dynamics of these proteins in the context of shape transitions of the membrane1.

Correlating CLEM and centroid tracking has shown that Sla1 starts to moves into the cytoplasm concomitant with the arrival of Abp1, and therefore of actin1–3. Sla1 is pulled inwards along with the membrane and follows its movement through endocytosis. As inward movement of the coat begins, the Sla1 patch is disassembled, inferred from the decay of the fluorescent intensity of Sla1-GFP1 (Fig.3.1D,E). Rvs localizes to endocytic patches later in the timeline, after parallel membrane tubes are formed3. Membrane scission occurs at around 60% of ­its lifetime at sites3. At the time of scission, the Rvs167-GFP centroid shows a sharp jump into the cytoplasm, while fluorescent intensity shows a sudden decay, a profile that is unique among endocytic proteins1,3. Rvs is thought to form a scaffold at the membrane tube. At scission time, this scaffold is thought to disassemble, resulting in an inward jump of the Rvs167 centroid to protein localized at the base of the newly formed vesicle. Abp1 intensity peaks at scission time, and drops, indicating disassembly of the actin network upon vesicle formation. At scission time, the Sla1 centroid has moved about 140nm into the cytoplasm, similar to maximum membrane tube lengths measured by CLEM.

Averaged centroid tracking as in Picco et al., is used throughout this work to quantify the movement of endocytic proteins. Averaged centroid movement is referred to as “movement”. Unless indicated otherwise, “scission time” in all the centroid movement plots refers to this Abp1 fluorescent intensity maximum.

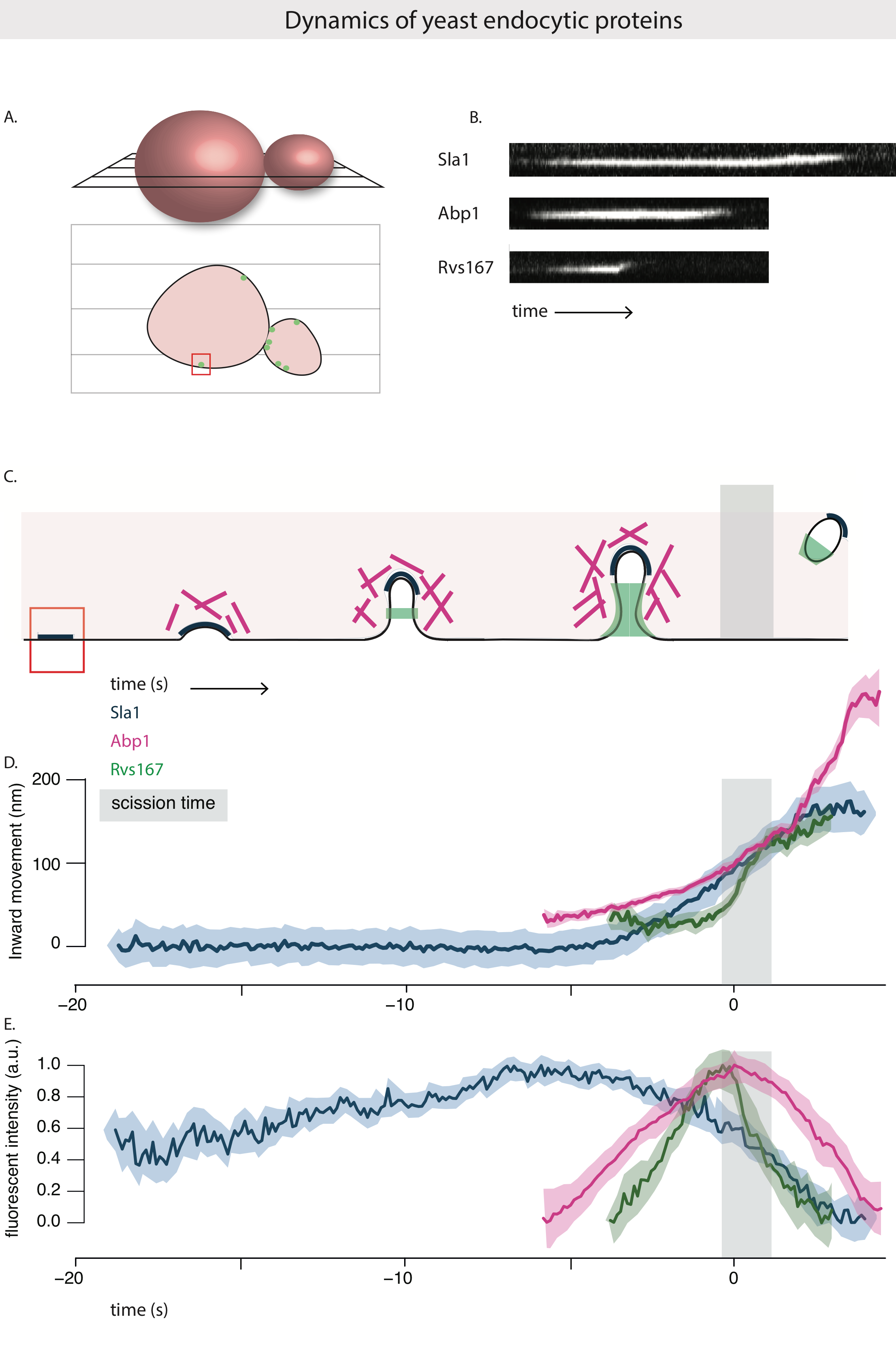
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Fig.2.1A: Above: Schematic of a yeast cell, showing the equatorial plane. Below: Cross section of the cell at the equatorial plane, with fluorescently tagged endocytic protein at the plasma membrane.

B: Kymographs of Sla1-GFP, Abp1-GFP and Rvs167-GFP at endocytic sites. Sla1 and Abp1 show slow inward movement, while Rvs shows a sharp jump. Exposure rate 80ms.

C: Schematic of the timeline of membrane invagination during endocytosis, with Sla1, Abp1, Rvs167 and scission time (around 60% of Rvs167 lifetime) indicated.

D, E: Averaged centroid movement and normalized fluorescent intensity for Sla1, Abp1 and Rvs167. D and E are aligned in time so that time=0 (sec) corresponds to the maximum of fluorescent intensity of averaged Abp1 patches. This corresponds to scission time.

**R0. Deletion of Rvs167 leads to shorter invaginations**

The Rvs complex, as has been discussed in section {Intro}, is known to have an influence on membrane scission efficiency. Recruitment in the final stage of membrane invagination, localization to the membrane tube, and concomitant disassembly with scission all indicate that Rvs could mechanistically influence the scission process.

In order to quantify what happens in the absence of Rvs, I tracked Sla1-GFP in rvs167del cells and compared its movement against WT Sla1-GFP movement. 27% of Sla1 patches move inward and retract, consistent with earlier observations2. Movement of the remaining 73% Sla1 patches are quantified. Sla1 movement of rvs167deletion and WT looks similar up to about 60nm. CLEM has shown that Rvs167 localizes to endocytic sites after the tubes are 60nm long. Sla1 movement in rvs167deletion shows therefore that membrane invagination is unaffected till Rvs is supposed to arrive. Sla1 then continues to move at a much slower rate, and membrane scission occurs at about 80nm. WT Sla1 meanwhile moves to 140nm. This indicates that first, membrane scission can occur at invagination lengths of 80nm. Then, that the arrival of Rvs prevents membrane scission at this point and allows further membrane invagination.

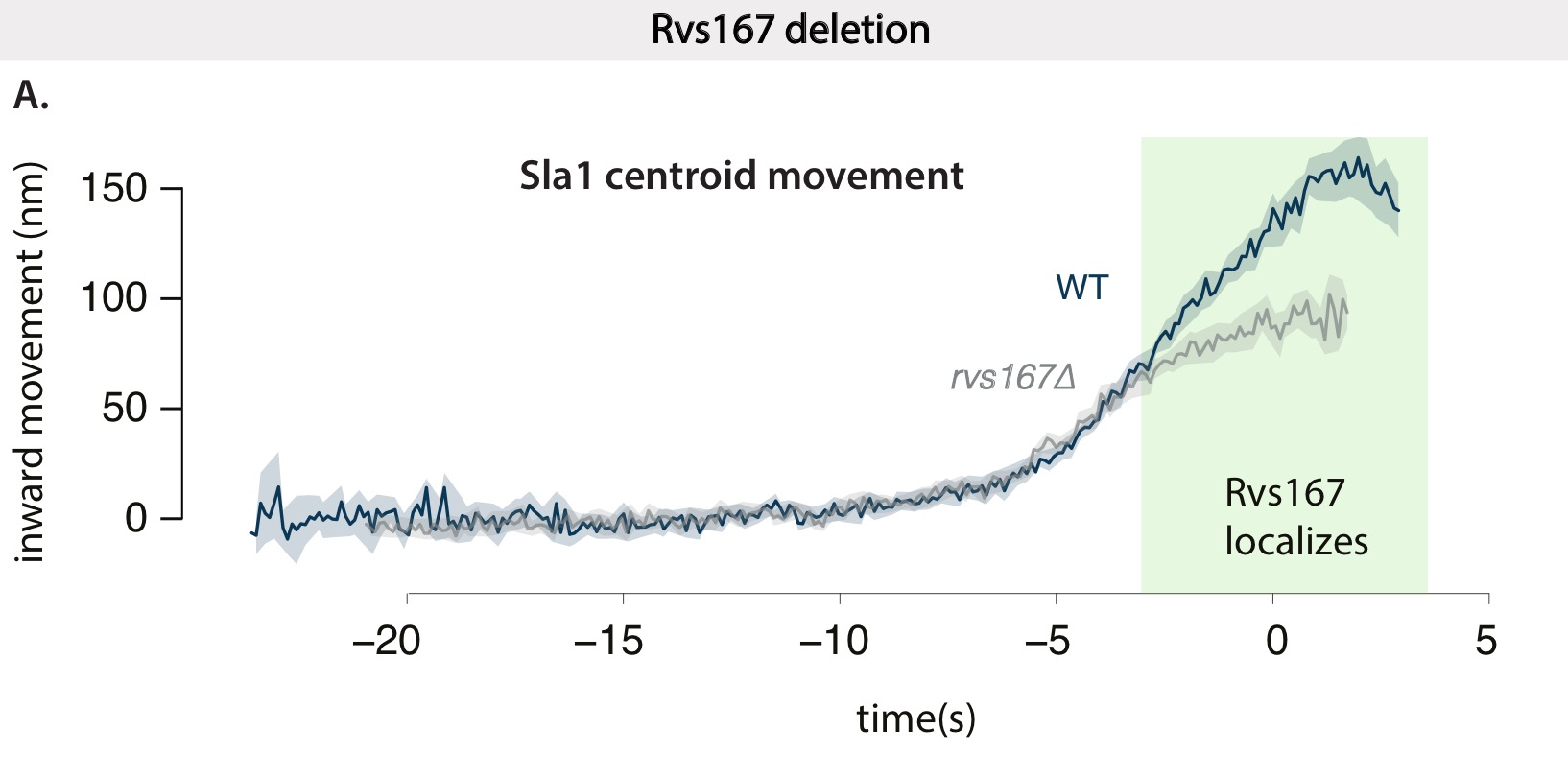
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Fig.2.2: Movement of Sla1-GFP in WT and rvs167del cells. WT Sla1 is aligned in time so that time=0 (sec) corresponds to scission time. Averaged centroid of Sla1-GFP in rvs167del cells is shifted in time so that inward movement is concomitant with WT Sla1 movement.

R1. Recruitment of Rvs and function of domains

**Membrane curvature-sensing / generation by BAR proteins**

Cellular membrane shape is a result of properties like rigidity, tension, intracellular pressure, that are all influenced by membrane lipid composition and the proteins embedded in it 4,5. Since tension, pressure, and rigidity all oppose membrane deformation, energy is required to deform and bend it. BAR domains localize to curved membranes, but they have also been shown to generate membrane tubes and cause vesicle formation, leading to some discussion on the interplay between these functions.

**Curvature generation:**

BAR domains are thought to generate membrane curvature by either scaffolding or insertion of the N-helix into the lipid bilayer.

Scaffolding refers interaction of the positively charged concave surface of BAR domains with negatively charged lipids. By attracting lipids to the positive surface, BAR domains are thought to induce membrane curvature. Curvature-generation by BAR scaffolding has been proposed as a function for I-BAR, F-BAR as well as N-BAR domains 6–10.

The N-helix of NBAR domains can generate curvature independently of the BAR scaffold mechanism (Varkey 2010, Westphal and Chandra 2013). Shallow insertion of the N-helix into the upper lipid bilayer causes the bilayer to rearrange, and results in a difference in membrane surface area between the upper and lower leaflets11. This results in membrane curvature.

**Sensing curvature:**

BAR domains show a preferential binding to membranes that correlates to their intrinsic curvature: flat F-BAR domain proteins are found at flat membranes, N-BAR domains are found at tubular structures1,12. That BAR domains are able to generate curvature does not imply that this is their function. *In-vivo*, the significance of curvature-generation is not determined. Tracking over thirty different endocytic proteins in NIH-3TC cells (derived from mouse fibroblasts), TIRF imaging shows that Endophilin2 and Amphiphysin1 arrive late in the endocytic time-line right before scission13, suggesting they arrive when membrane tubes are already formed.

Curvature-generation and sensing are likely intrinsically coupled mechanisms. BAR proteins that can induce curvature could also sense curvature: there could be feedback between membrane-sensing and generation.

In the case of Rvs, that the complex localizes to sites after membrane tubes are formed shows that Rvs localizes once membrane curvature is established. Whether this localization is dependent on membrane curvature, recognized by the BAR domain has not been shown.

**R1.1 BAR domains sense membrane curvature in-vivo**

To test whether Rvs is recruited because of membrane curvature, I tested the recruitment of Rvs167 without the BAR domain, that is Rvs167-delsh3 (henceforth BAR). BAR-GFP forms cortical patches (Fig.3.2A), so the BAR domain is able to localize to the plasma membrane in the absence of the SH3 domain. In a yeast cells expressing both BAR-GFP and Abp1-mCherry, BAR-GFP co-localizes with Abp1, indicating that BAR domains are recruited to endocytic patches (Fig3.2A, C).

In order to test whether this localization is due to membrane curvature, I compared the dynamics of Rvs167-GFP against BAR-GFP in sla2del cells (Fig3.2D-F). Sla2 is a coat protein that acts as a linker between the membrane and actin cytoskeleton. It binds membrane via its N-terminal ANTH domain and actin by the C-terminal THATCH domain. This allows forces generated by the actin network to be transmitted to the membrane14. In sla2del cells, rather than cortical actin patches that co-localize to endocytic proteins, an “uncoupling phenotype” is observed14,15. Although endocytic coats are formed, actin is polymerized continuously at these sites, the membrane is not pulled inwards, and vesicles are not formed. Forces generated by the actin network are not transmitted to the membrane (Fig.2.2E).

In sla2del cells, Rvs167-GFP is­ recruited to the plasma membrane (Fig.2.2D,F), together with Abp1. Some Rvs167-GFP patches persist at the plasma membrane, while many are assembled and disassembled. In sla2­del cells expressing BAR-GFP, localization is mostly removed except for rare transient patches at the plasma membrane. These patches further rarely co-localized with Abp1, most do not. Rvs167-GFP and BAR-GFP patches are both dynamic, indicating an interaction exists in both cases that is able to assemble and disassemble Rvs molecules at the plasma membrane.

BAR-GFP is not typically recruited to the plasma membrane in sla2del cells, showing that the BAR domain requires membrane curvature to localize.

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Fig.2.2: **A**: Maximum intensity projections of time-lapse images of cells expressing either Rvs167-GFP and BAR-GFP, and Abp1-mCherry. Exposure rate 250ms. **B**: Schematic of membrane progression of in WT and BAR endocytic events (BAR invaginations are shorter, and recruit fewer Rvs molecules: see section R1.3).

**C:** Montage of Rvs167-GFP and BAR-GFP localizations on the plasma membrane with Abp1-mCherry. Each frame of montage is every third frame of time-lapse images.

**D**: Maximum intensity projection of time-lapse images of sla2del cells expressing either Rvs167-GFP or BAR-GFP, and Abp1-mCherry.

**E**: Schematic of membrane invagination in sla2del. **F**: Montage of Rvs167-GFP or BAR-GFP with Abp1-mCherry. Exposure rate 1000ms for GFP, 800ms for RFP.

**G**: Maximum intensity projection of time-lapse images of sla2del cells expressing Rvs167-GFP or BAR-GFP, with Abp1-mCherry, after treatment with LatA for 10’. Exposure rate 1000ms for GFP, 800ms for RFP. **H**: Schematic of membrane invagination in Sla2del cells treated with LatA.

All scale bars = 2um.

**R1.2 The SH3 domain is able to localize Rvs in an actin and curvature-independent manner**

As I show in R1.1, full-length Rvs167 is able to localize to endocytic patches in sla2del cells. This localization must be dependent on the SH3 domain, since BAR alone does not localize in sla2del cells. SH3 domains are known to interact many actin associated proteins: an interaction with Abp1 has been shown, as well as with Las17, type I Myosins, and Vrp1.

In order to test whether it interacts with an actin binding protein, I imaged BAR-GFP and full-length Rvs167-GFP in sla2del cells treated with the actin sequestering agent LatrunculinA (LatA). LatA is a sea-sponge toxin that binds monomeric actin and prevents incorporation of actin into filaments. Since high actin turnover is required at endocytic sites, LatA effectively disassembles components of the actin network, and blocks endocytosis. In sla2del cells treated with LatA, membrane curvature as well as actin-binding proteins are removed from endocytic sites. Loss of actin-binding proteins is observed by the loss of Abp1 signal.

Surprisingly, full-length Rvs167 is transiently localized to the plasma membrane in sla2del cells with LatA (Fig.2.2G, H). Localization occurs in the absence of a BAR-membrane interaction, since BAR-GFP patches are not seen in similarly treated cells. This suggests that the SH3 domain is able to recruit Rvs to the plasma membrane in the absence of curvature and actin network components. Rvs167-GFP patches are transient, so assembly and disassembly of an Rvs patch can be mediated by the SH3 domain. Localization of Rvs161, which does not have an SH3 domain, is removed by LatA treatment15, su­pporting the conclusion that the SH3 domain drives the localization of full-length Rvs167 in sla2del cells, as well as in sla2del cells with LatA.

**R1.3 Loss of the SH3 domain affects recruitment of Rvs, coat and actin dynamics**

The BAR domain was expected to act as the functional module of the Rvs complex: phenotypes of rvs167del like non-viability on starvation, and mis-localization of actin can be partially rescued by expression of the BAR domain alone16. Since the SH3 domain unexpectedly affects localization of Rvs, I investigated its effect further.

The SH3 domain generally mediates protein-protein interaction by binding to proline-rich sequences that contain a core PXXP motif17,18 (where X is any amino acid). These domains are ubiquitous in cellular interaction pathways, and several endocytic proteins have at least one SH3 domain. Although SH3 domains are abundant, they appear to have specific binding partners that could modulate function [ref]. For Rvs167, neither binding partner, nor function of the SH3 domain is known.

In order to probe the contribution of the Rvs SH3 domain to endocytosis, I studied Sla1 and Rvs167 in cells expressing Rvs167sh3del, that is, in BAR cells, and quantified the number of molecules recruited to endocytic sites as in Picco et al.,1. Fig. 2.3C shows that recruitment of Rvs167 is reduced by nearly half (30.1 +/- 9.9 for BAR compared to 53.2 +/- 5.3 for WT). Cytoplasmic concentration of Rvs167 appears not to be different in WT vs BAR cells (see methods). The inward jump of Rvs167 is reduced in BAR cells compared to WT (Fig.2.3A), and a number of BAR-GFP patches remain on the plasma membrane and are disassembled without inward movement. Movement of the coat protein Sla1 is similarly reduced in BAR cells (Fig.2.3A). Sla1 moves into the cytoplasm approximately 60nm instead of the 140nm found in WT invaginations. Abp1 recruitment in BAR cells is reduced to 50% of WT recruitment, to 172.6 +/- 12.9 from 347+/- 30.6 molecules in WT (Fig.2.3C). Short invaginations with a maximum of 60nm have been observed in the case of Rvs167 deletion by CLEM3, which is about the same length as those observed in the SH3 deletion: loss of the SH3 domain appears to be detrimental to the function of the Rvs complex. That tubular invaginations are formed in BAR cells, and qualitatively resemble that in WT cells is demonstrated by CLEM on WT and BAR samples expressing Rvs167-GFP and Abp1-mCherry (Fig.2.3E).

To check if there was a change in the timing of endocytic progression, I quantified the lifetimes of Rvs167, Sla1 and Abp1 in BAR cells using total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy. Unlike epifluorescence microscopy at the equatorial plane, when using TIRF, only fluorophores up to a depth of about 100nm from the glass-sample interphase are excited. This reduces fluorescent signal from the cytoplasm, allowing detection of low intensity fluorescent signal, and is a better method for quantification of protein lifetime than epifluorescence microscopy. Although this method is sensitive to low fluorescent intensity, as the proteins start to move inwards into the cytoplasm, fluorescent intensity rapidly drops, since only fluorophores ~100nm from the glass surface is excited. Therefore, rather than a quantification of the entire lifetime of the protein, this is a quantification of the non-motile lifetime of a protein that arrives at endocytic sites. Non-motile lifetimes of Rvs167, Sla1 and Abp1 are thus compared between BAR and WT cells.

While lifetimes of Rvs167 and Sla1 are similar in both cell types, there is a significant increase in the lifetime of Abp1 in BAR cells (supplemental). Increase in lifetime of Abp1 is also seen by epifluorescence microscopy (Fig.2.3B). I then looked for differences in the sequence of recruitment of these proteins by looking at the difference in time between recruitment of Sla1 and Rvs167, and the difference in time between recruitment of Abp1 and Rvs167. The time difference between recruitment of Sla1 and Rvs167 is unchanged between WT and BAR cells, while the difference in time between recruitment of Abp1 and Rvs167 is increased in BAR cells (Fig.2.3D).

This data suggests that the BAR domain alone cannot reproduce the function of the Rvs167 at endocytic sites: recruitment of Rvs, coat and actin dynamics are all affected.

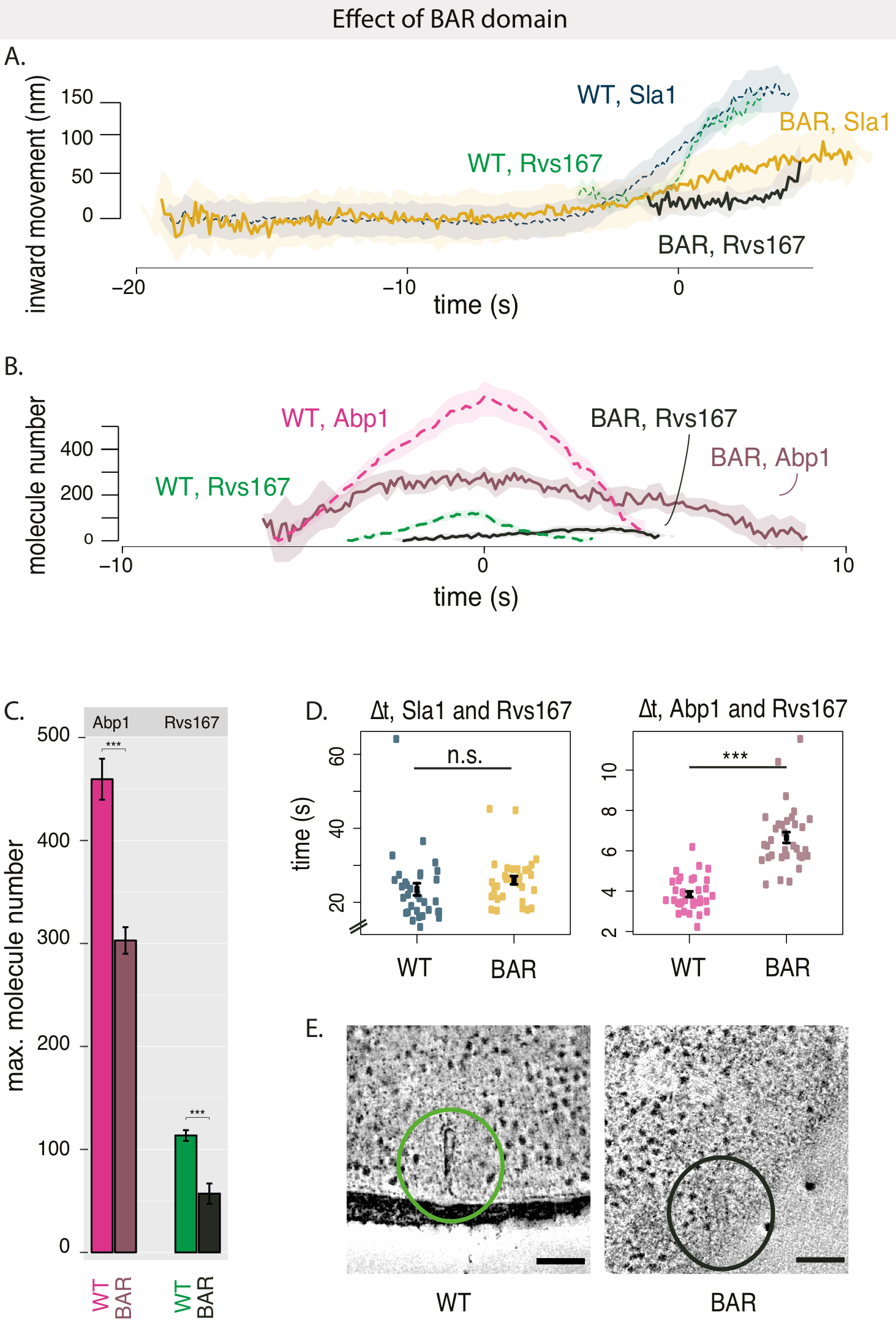
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Fig.2.3 A: Movement of Sla1 and Rvs167 in WT and BAR cells. All centroid trajectories are aligned in time so that time=0 (s) corresponds to the Abp1-mCherry fluorescent intensity peak in simultaneous dual-color imaging of the corresponding strains1.

C: Molecule numbers of Abp1-GFP and Rvs167-GFP in WT and BAR cells with standard error of mean. Mean and standard error of the mean are shown, \* = p≤0.05, \*\* = p≤0.01, \*\*\* = p≤0.001. P values of two-sided t test.

D: Lifetimes are measured by TIRF in Rvs167-GFP/ Abp1-mCherry and Rvs167-GFP/ Sla1-mCherry in WT and BAR strains. Time difference between arrival of Sla1 or Abp1 and Rvs167 is then manually counted from montages of the two channels.

Mean and standard error of the mean are shown, \* = p≤0.05, \*\* = p≤0.01, \*\*\* = p≤0.001. P values of two-sided t test.

E: Z-stack of slices from reconstructed tomograms of WT and BAR strains expressing Rvs167-GFP and Abp1-mCherry. Scale bar=100nm.

**Scission mechanisms:**

While work on membrane scission in mammalian cells has converged on the idea that it is caused by dynamin interaction with BAR domains, in yeast what causes the final shape-transition from tubes to vesicles is not determined. Several membrane scission mechanisms for yeast endocytosis have been proposed in the last years, in the absence of conclusive mechanistic evidence. We know that Rvs plays a major role in determining the efficiency of membrane scission, and that in its absence membrane invaginations are shorter than in WT. I have therefore focused of models for membrane scission that assign a central role to BAR domain proteins. In the following pages, I discuss their propositions, describe experiments that have tested these mechanisms, and the conclusions they propose.

**Does yeast dynamin Vps1 influence membrane scission?**

Yeast dynamin is the obvious solution to membrane scission. Although none of the three dynamin-like yeast proteins has a proline-rich domain, one of them- Vps1 has been suggested to function in a similar role 19,20. Rooij et al., propose that Vps1 localizes to endocytic sites at scission stage, and see that in *vps1*Δ*rvs167*Δ cells, rates of coat retraction after invagination increases. Coat retraction after invagination is an indication of membrane scission failure2. Vps1-GFP does not localize to endocytic sites in Gadila et at.,21, but localizes to the golgi body and to vacuoles. Kishimoto et al22, do not find a colocalization between Vps1 and Abp1 localization, and find that the *vps1*Δ *rvs167*Δ cells do not show increased coat retraction rates. Vps1 tagged with GFP as well as superfolded GFP, and imaged by TIRF microscopy fails to colocalize with Abp1 (data from Andrea Picco, not shown). The debate concerning the involvement of Vps1 in membrane scission in yeast has been compounded by the possibility that the GFP tag at the Vps1 C-terminus could interfere with its localization to endocytic sites, and/or its interaction with the Rvs complex.

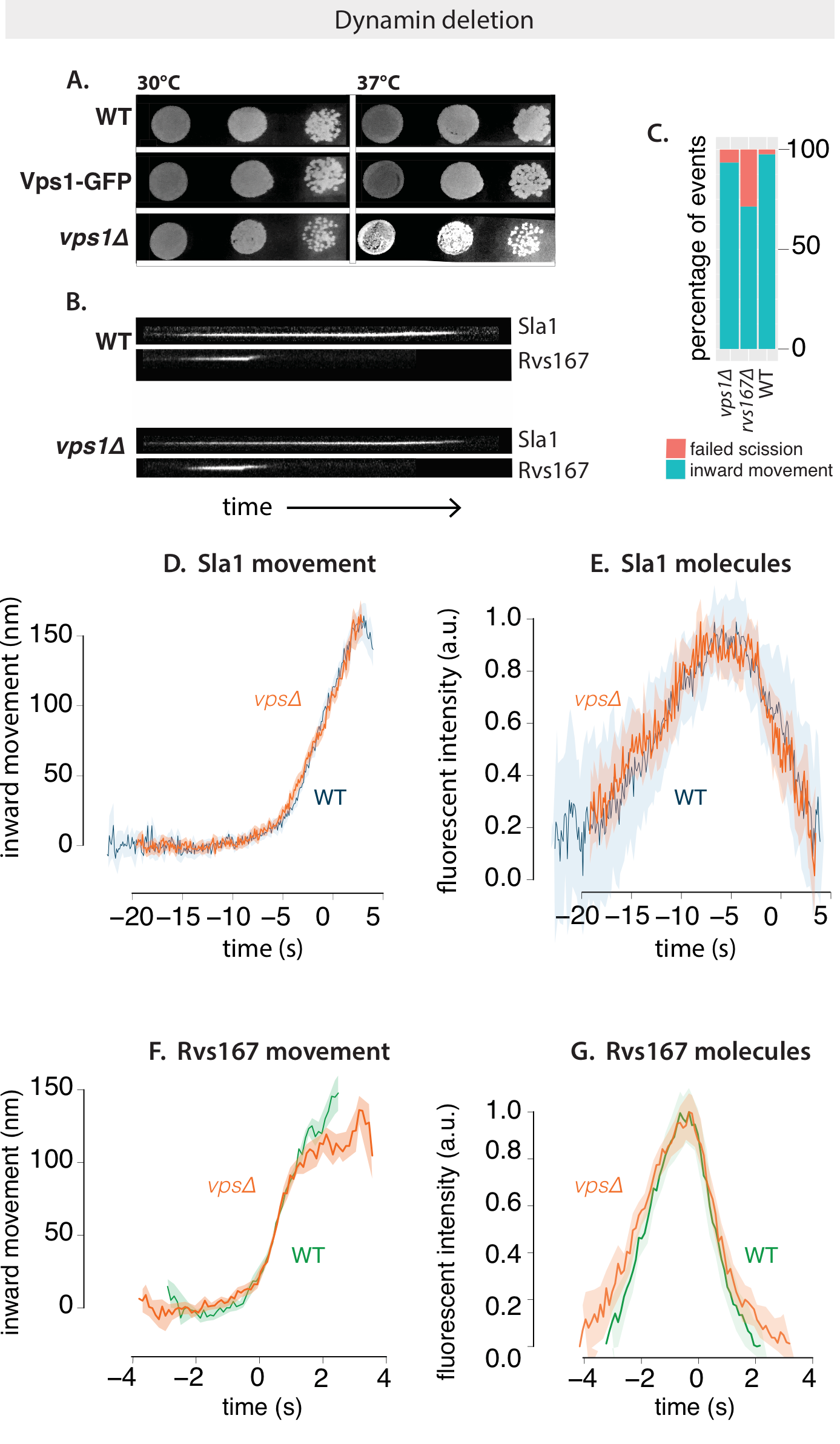
If Vps1 was required for membrane scission, Sla1 would be expected to undergo delayed or failed scission in its absence.

**R2.1 Vps1 does not affect Sla1 or Rvs167 dynamics**

I investigated the role of Vps1 by studying coat and scission proteins in *vps1*Δ cells in order to avoid the question of whether fluorescently tagging Vps1 affects its function.

*vps1*Δ cells exhibit a growth defect at 37C, as has been reported19. In *vps1*Δ cells, Sla1 accumulates in patches at the plasma membrane, moves inwards, and disassembles like in WT. Centroid movements and intensities of Sla1 and Rvs in time are plotted in Figure3D-G. WT Sla1 is aligned so that time=0 (s) corresponds to scission time. Sla1 movement for *vps1*Δ in 3D is shifted in time so that it starts to move inwards at the same time as WT. The lifetime of Sla1-GFP appears to be slightly shortened in *vps1*Δ compared to the WT, but this shortening occurs early in the lifetime of the protein at endocytic patches, when the molecule numbers of Sla1 are low, and epifluorescence microscopy is not particularly sensitive in this range of fluorescent intensity. Therefore, I do not take this to indicate a true shortened lifetime; lifetime of Sla1 in *vps1*Δ was not investigated further. In WT cells, Sla1 moves into the cytoplasm about 140nm before membrane scission occurs. However, *vps1*Δ does not increase the rate of membrane retraction (Fig.2.5C). Inward movement of Sla1 in *vps1*Δ is not changed: it moves inward at the same rate, and to similar maxima of 140nm as the WT.

The dynamics of Rvs167, however, remains the same as in WT. This data indicates that if Vps1 is localized to endocytic patches in *S.cerevisiae*, it is not involved in regulating membrane scission.



­­ Fig.2.5 A: Dot spots of yeast cells in WT, Vps1-GFP (diploid), and *vps1*Δ cell at 30C and 37C. *vps1*Δ cells show a slight growth defect at 37C.

B: Kymographs of Sla1-GFP and Rvs167-GFP in WT and *vps1*Δ cells show similar assembly/ disassembly. **Exposure 80ms.**

C: Failure rate of membrane scission, in *vps1*Δ, *rvs167*Δ and WT cells. Scission failure is measured as either retractions of Sla1 after membrane begins to move inwards, or non-motile Sla1 patches.

D, E: Averaged centroid movement and normalized fluorescent intensity of Sla1-GFP in WT and *vps1*Δ strains. Time =0 (s) for WT Sla1 centroid is aligned to Abp1 fluorescent intensity maximum (scission time). Sla1 for *vps1*Δ is shifted in time to begin inwards movement at the same time as WT.

F, G: Averaged centroid movement and normalized fluorescent intensity of Rvs167-GFP in WT and vpsdel strains. Time =0 (s) for WT Rvs167 centroid is aligned to Abp1 fluorescent intensity maximum. Rvs167 for vpsdel is shifted in time so that fluorescent intensity maxima is at time=0 (s).

**Can lipid hydrolysis cause scission?**

Phosphatidylinositols (PIs) and their lipid derivatives play important roles in many cellular processes including membrane trafficking and cell signalling. Conversion between lipid types is driven by kinases, lipases, and phosphatases and controlled throughout the membrane trafficking pathway.

Phosphatidylinositol (4,5)-biphosphate (PI(4,5)P2) is an important lipid type found at the cell surface, and is enriched and depleted from endocytic sites at the plasma membrane in concert with the assembly and disassembly of the endocytic machinery. Synaptojanins form a subset of inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatases that hydrolyze PI(4,5)P2 to PI(4)P by removing the phosphate at the 5’ position of the inositol ring. They are known to take part in CME and intracellular signalling, as well as in modulating the actin cytoskeleton23.

In mammalian cells, disruption of Synaptojanin genes results in cellular accumulation of PI(4,5)P2 at endocytic sites. Coated vesicles gather at the plasma membrane, suggesting a role for lipid hydrolysis in releasing coat proteins from nascent vesicles. Synaptojanins contain an N-terminal homology domain with the cytoplasmic domain of the yeast SAC1 gene that is implicated in lipid metabolism, actin morphology, and vesicle transport in the secretary pathway24. A central catalytic domain is then followed by a proline-rich C-terminal region that is the canonical interaction partner of SH3 domains. Synaptojanins interact with actin binding proteins and BAR domain proteins, potentiating also a role in membrane invagination and scission.

The yeast genome encodes for three Synaptojanin-like proteins- Inp51, Inp52 and Inp53- that regulate phospholipid metabolism. In *inp51*Δ*inp52*Δ cells, increase the lifetime of endocytic proteins and produce aberrant membrane invaginations that could indicate scission failure and defective endocytosis25,26. *inp51*Δ*rvs167*Δ cells have increase membrane retraction rates, supporting a possible role for Inp52 in membrane scission22. Loss of inp51 leads to an increase in bulk PI(4,5)P2 level, although changes in PI(4,5)P2 levels have not been reported for mutations of Inp52, and are not measured locally at the endocytic sites27,28.

In a model proposed by Liu et al, Synpatojanins and BAR proteins interact to regulate PI(4,5)P2 hydrolysis, which in turn drives membrane scission. Here, Rvs forms a scaffold on the membrane tube, and protects the underlying PIP2 from hydrolysis. Synaptojanin arrives at inavaginated membranes, and hydrolyses unprotected PIP2. This generates a boundary between BAR-protected PI(4,5)P2 at the tube and PI(4,5)P at the bud tip. This lipid boundary produces line tension at the interphase that could generate enough force to pinch off a vesicle.

The Liu et al., model predicts that if line-tension from lipid hydrolysis is removed, membrane scission should be delayed or fail.

**R2.2 Yeast synaptojanins do not significantly affect coat and Rvs movement**

I tested the lipid hydrolysis model described above by studying the effect of synaptojanin deletion on Sla1 and Rvs167.

Of the three yeast Synaptojanins, only Inp52-GFP localizes to cortical patches. Time alignment with other endocytic proteins as in Picco et al., shows that Inp52 localizes to endocytic sites at the late stage of scission, similar to Rvs. The centroid of Inp52-GFP can be localized to the tip of the invaginated tube, consistent with the Liu theory of membrane scission: spatial and temporal localization is consistent with influence on scission. Inp51-GFP exhibits a diffuse cytoplasmic signal, while Inp53 localizes to patches within the cytoplasm, likely to the trans-golgi network, as has been noted in other work [ref].

In both *inp51*Δand *inp52*Δ cells, Sla1-GFP patches are assembled and disassembled, as is Rvs167-GFP. Sla1 retraction rates are slightly increased to 12% in *inp52*Δ, compared to 2% in WT, and 6% in *inp51*Δ (Fig.2.7B). In Fig.2.7A, Sla1 movement in *inp51*Δ and *inp52*Δ cells is compared against that in WT. WT Sla1 is aligned in time so that time=0 (s) corresponds to scission time. Sla1 centroids for *inp51*Δ and *inp52*Δ are shifted so that they begin to move inwards at the same time as the WT. All three Sla1 centroids have the same rate of inward movement. While Sla1 in *inp51*Δ moves inwards to about the same distance as WT, in *inp52*Δ, the centroid of Sla1 persists for nearly 5 seconds longer than WT (arrowhead in Fig.2.7A). This centroid movement is noisier than the inward movement till 140nm, and is likely from post-scission of movement of the vesicle.

Rvs167 dynamics are similar to WT in both *inp51*Δ and *inp52*Δ cells. The Rvs167 centroids move inwards to about the same distance into the cytoplasm at the jump inwards, indicating that the base of the vesicle formed is likely at the same position as in WT. In *inp52*Δ cells, however, Rvs167 patches appear to not disassembly completely (arrowhead in Fig.2.7C) unlike in the WT. Since Rvs disassembly occurs at membrane tube scission, this change in Rvs167 dynamics is post-scission. Assembly of Rvs167 in the *inp51*Δ takes about 2 seconds longer compared to WT. The implication of this delay is not thus far clear.

Since the differences in Sla1 and Rvs167 centroid dynamics for *inp52*Δ are post-scission, I find that the data is consistent with a role for Inp52 in vesicle uncoating, rather than a primary role in membrane scission.

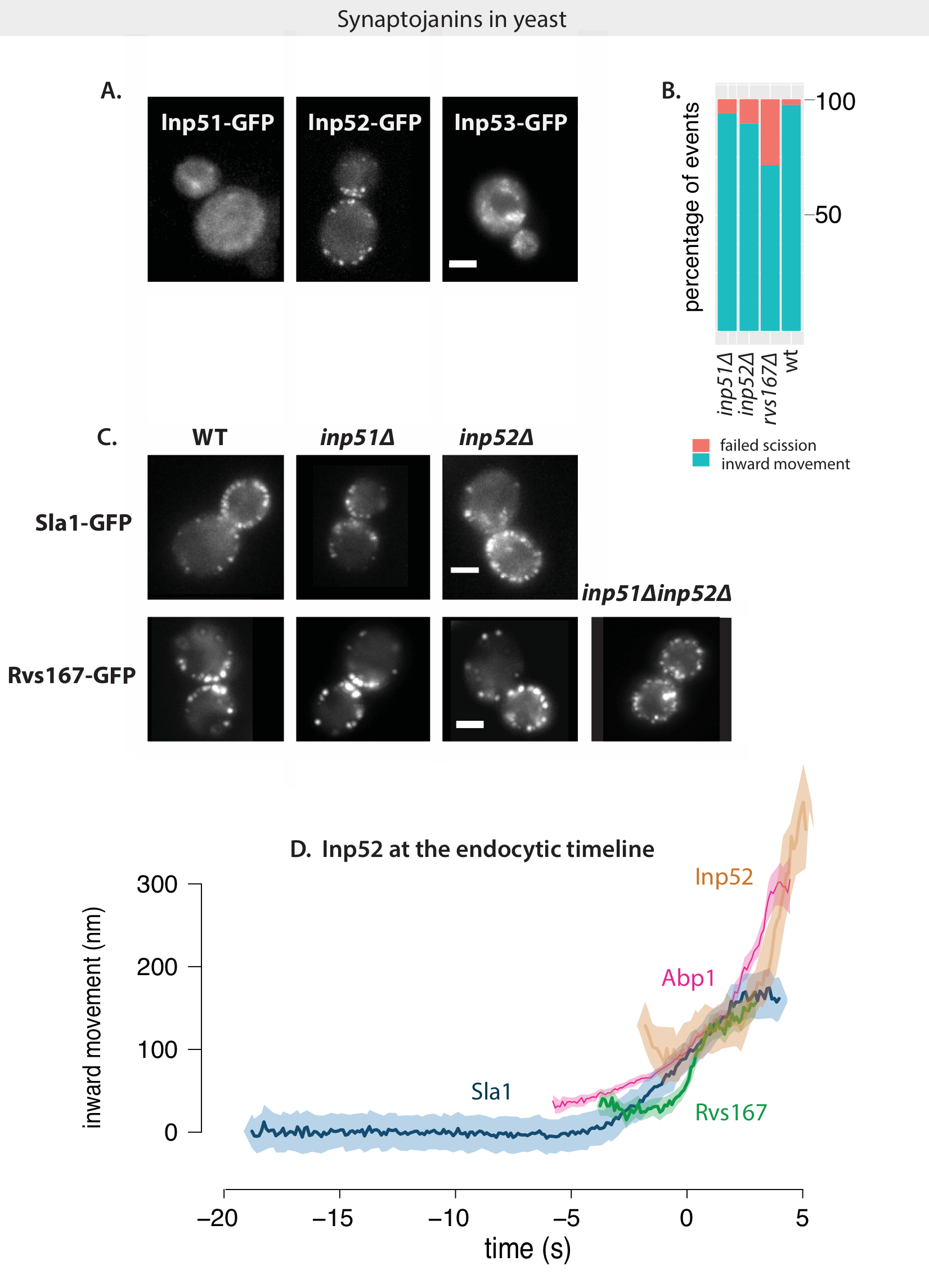


Fig.2.6 A: Localization of GFP-tagged yeast Synaptojanins Inp51, Inp52, and Inp53. Exposure rate 80ms

B: Failure rate of membrane scission, measured by quantifying number of retractions of Sla1 after membrane begins to move inwards, or by total lack of movement in WT, rvsdel, inp51del and inp52del strains.

C: Sla1-GFP in WT, inp51del and inp52del strains show similar plasma membrane localization. Rvs167-GFP in WT, inp51del, inp52del and inp51delinp52del strains. Rvs in single deletion strains show localizations similar to WT, but double deletion strains consists of large patches of Rvs167 at the plasma membrane, as well as localized within the cytoplasm.

D: Inp52-GFP in endocytic timeline in WT cells. Time=0 (s) corresponds to the fluorescent intensity maxima of the Abp1-mCherry in simultaneous dual-color imaging Sla1-GFP, Rvs167-GFP, and Inp52-GFP with Abp1-mCherry.

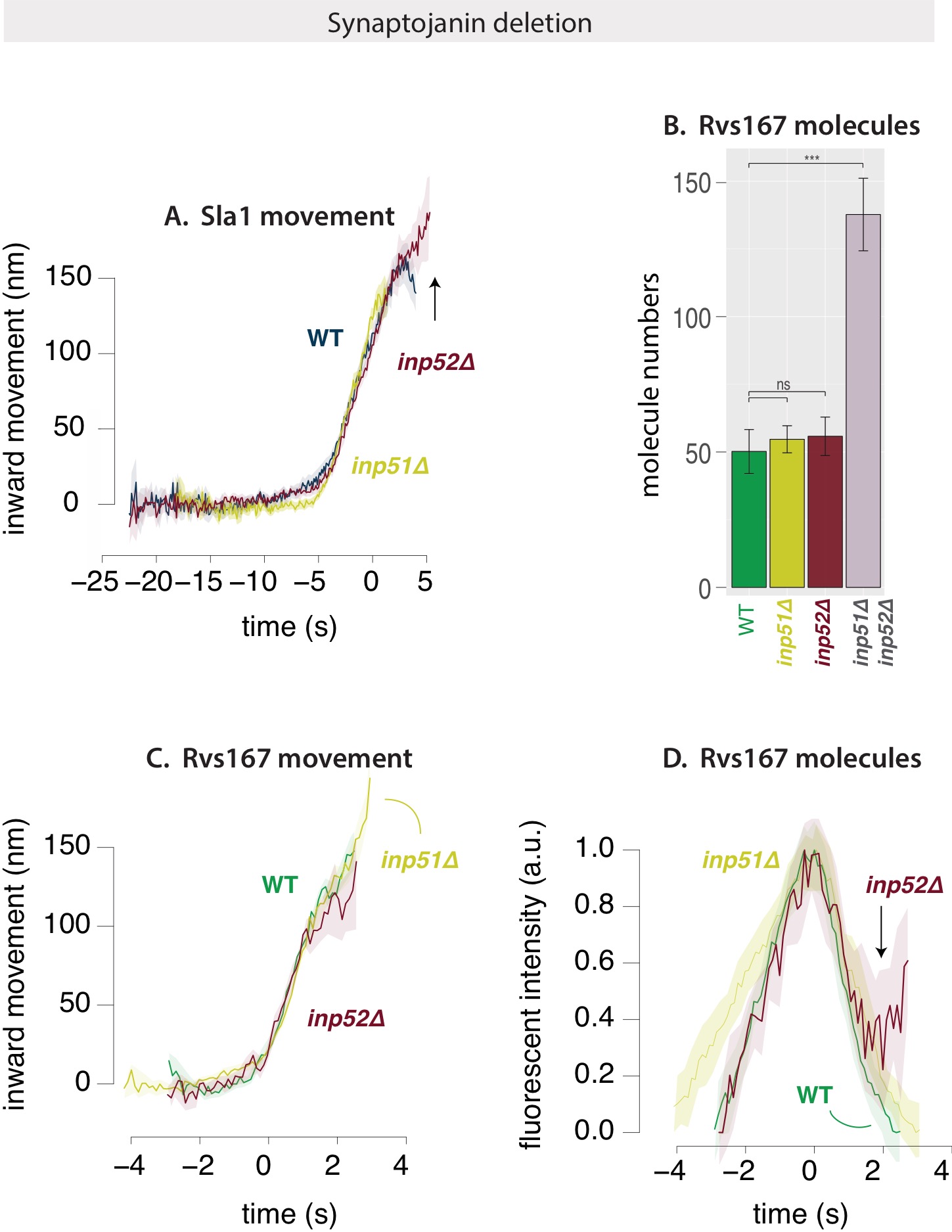


Fig.2.7 A: Averaged centroid movement of Sla1-GFP in WT, inp51del and inp53del strains. Time=0 (s) for WT strains corresponds to fluorescent intensity maxima of Abp1-mCherry in dual-color imaging of cells expressing Sla1-GFP Abp1-mCherry. Sla1 centroids for inp51del and inp52del have been shifted in time to move inwards at the same time as the WT strain.

B: Median molecule numbers of Rvs167-GFP in WT, inp51del and inp52del strains.

C: Averaged centroid movement of Rvs167-GFP in WT, inp51del and inp52del strains. Time=0 (s) for WT Rvs167-GFP corresponds to fluorescent intensity maxima of Abp1-mCherry in dual-color imaging of cells expressing Rvs167-GFP, Abp1-mCherry. Rvs167-GFP for inp51del, inp52del strains have been shifted so that Time=0 (s) corresponds to time of maximum fluorescent intensity of corresponding Rvs167-GFP centroids.

I then quantified the number of Rvs167 molecules recruited to endocytic patches in *inp51*Δ , *inp52*Δ, and *inp51*Δ *inp52*Δ cells. WT levels of Rvs167 are recruited in both *inp51*Δ and *inp52*Δ cases. In *inp51*Δ *inp52*Δ however, nearly three times as much Rvs is recruited to sites. Some Rvs167-GFP patches in these cells assemble and disassemble, although majority do not. Many large clusters of Rvs167 are present on the plasma membrane, and the regular inward jump in WT is not seen. Some cytoplasmic patches are also seen, consistent with observations of Sla1 patches within the cytoplasm29 by other labs. These patches likely mark aberrant membrane invaginations continuous with the plasma membrane that are able to assemble and disassemble endocytic patches. Many Sla1 patches are motile in *inp51*Δ *inp52*Δ, and uptake of extracellular membrane appears to proceed in spite of the morphological aberrations. This means that membrane scission could occur in these cells29.

Analysis of the *inp51*Δ *inp52*Δ phenotype is compounded by the retention of endocytic proteins on vesicles. If Rvs, coat, and other components are not recycled from vesicles because of *inp52*Δ, I am unable to distinguish between membrane tubes and vesicles that remain in the vicinity of newly forming membrane tubes. Further, this failure to recycle affects recruitment of protein to new endocytic sites and I cannot separate the effect of failure to recruit protein from scission failure. That *inp51*Δ *inp52*Δ phenotype is results in more aberrations in Rvs dynamics, and previously reported morphological defects than single deletions suggest the two proteins function in separate but partially overlapping pathways27. Defects caused by *inp51*Δ are then partially compensated for by Inp52, and vice-versa, but deletion of both results in large defects in cellular processes.

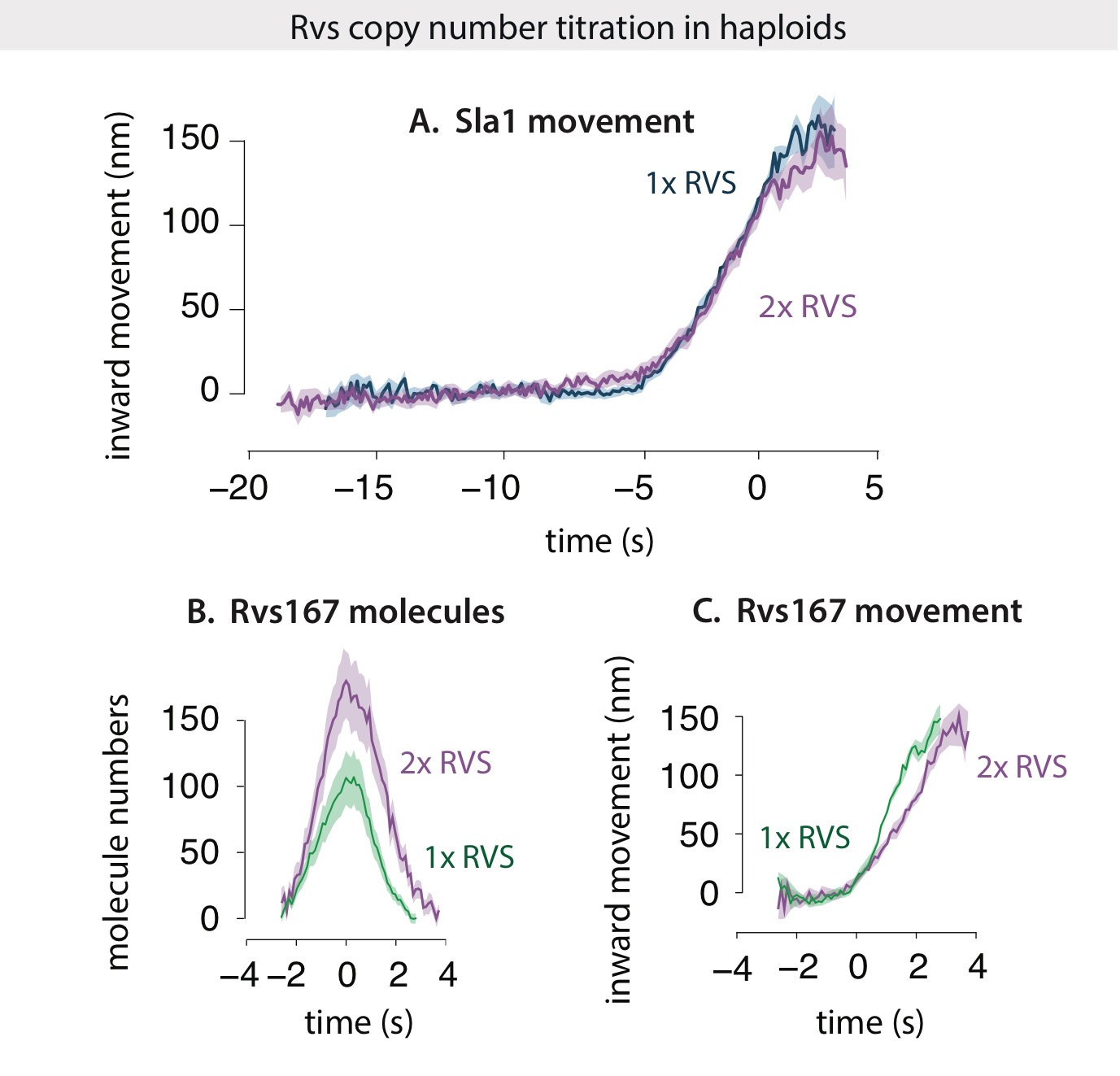
**Can protein friction cause membrane scission ?**

Recent *in-vitro* experiments have proposed protein friction as a BAR-driven mechanism for membrane scission30. In this model, a BAR domain scaffold on a membrane tube forms a frictional barrier to lipid diffusion. Forces that pull on the membrane increase the frictional force exerted by the scaffold on the underlying membrane tube. This leads to membrane thinning in the region not covered by the BAR, since there is no lipid influx. In turn, this leads to increased membrane tension in this region. Eventually, membrane pores form in this portion of the tube, which break the tube, forming a vesicle. In-vivo, the forces pulling the membrane could be provided by molecular motors like myosins, or actin polymerization.

This model predicts that if more BAR proteins are added, and at a faster rate, to the membrane, frictional force would increase. If frictional force increases, scission would occur faster: that is at shorter invagination lengths than with fewer BAR proteins.

**R2.3 Membrane scission does not occur at shorter tube lengths when recruitment of Rvs is increased**

To test whether protein friction could influence membrane scission in yeast, I duplicated the Rvs167 and Rvs161 genes as described in Huber et al. Gene duplication is performed in haploid cells to produce strains that have one (WT in haploids: 1xh) and two copies of both Rvs161 and Rvs167 (2xh). These haploid strains are then mated to generate diploid strains that have four copies of the Rvs167 and Rvs161 genes (4xd), two copies (WT in diploids: 2xd). Cells containing 1x copy of each Rvs is generated by crossing rvs167del strain with an rvs161del strain (1xd).

Fig.2.8 A: Averaged centroid movement of Sla1-GFP in diploid strains consisting of 1, 2, and 4 copies of the Rvs161 and Rvs167 genes. Sla1-GFP for 2x and 4x copies of Rvs are aligned so that Time=0 (s) corresponds to fluorescent intensity maxima of Abp1-mCherry in corresponding dual-color imaging. Sla1-GFP for 1x strain was shifted to move inwards at the same time as the other two.

**Sla1 and Rvs in gene duplicated haploids:**

In Fig.2.8A, Sla1 movement in WT (1xh) and duplicated (2xh) haploids are presented. WT Sla1 is aligned so that time= 0 (s) corresponds to scission time. Sla1 for 2xh is shifted so that it moves inwards at the same time as WT. Both Sla1 centroids move inwards at the same rate, and to the same distance of 140nm.

I measured the number of Rvs molecules recruited to endocytic sites in 1xh and 2xh strains. The maximum number of Rvs molecules recruited in the 2xh strain is 180, compared to 114 in WT (see TABLE.1, Fig.2.8): 1.6x more Rvs is recruited to endocytic sites in the gene duplicated strain. In Fig.2.8B, fluorescent intensity of Rvs167 in 1xh and 2xh cells are shown. Both Rvs167 fluorescent intensity plots are aligned so that time=0 (s) corresponds to their respective maxima. Rvs accumulation takes the same amount of time in 1xh as in 2xh: rate at which Rvs molecules is recruited to endocytic sites is 1.6x in Rvs duplicated cells (Fig.2.8B).

Dynamics of Rvs disassembly are quite different. Fig.2.8B shows that disassembly is slowed by ~1.5 seconds in 2xh compared to 1xh cell. In the corresponding Rvs centroid movement traces (Fig.2.8C), instead of the sharp jump seen in WT, there is a delay in movement into the cytoplasm.

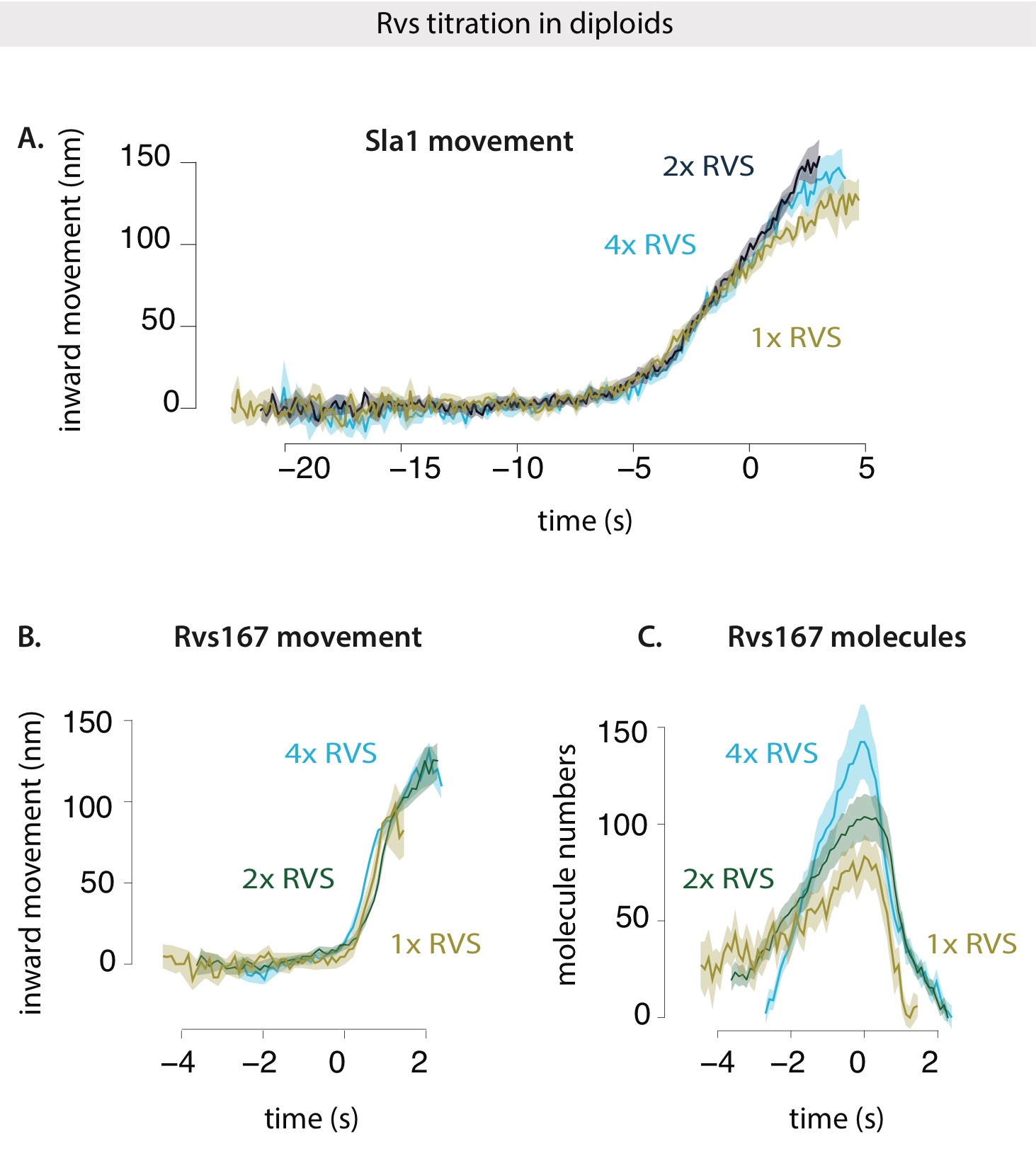
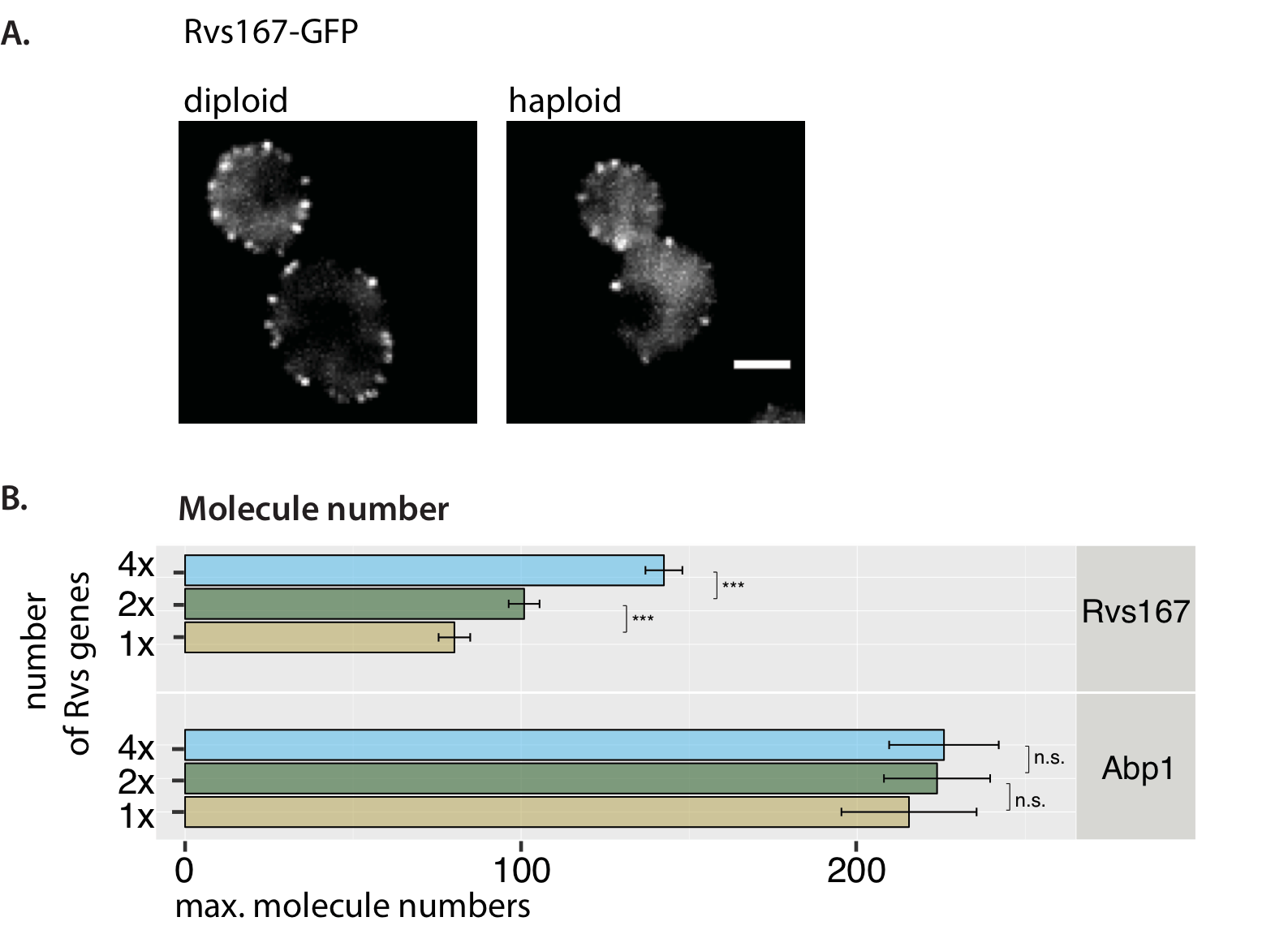


Fig.2.9 A: Averaged centroid movement of Sla1-GFP in diploid strains consisting of 1, 2, and 4 copies of the Rvs161 and Rvs167 genes. Sla1-GFP for 2x and 4x copies of Rvs are aligned so that Time=0 (s) corresponds to fluorescent intensity maxima of Abp1-mCherry in corresponding dual-color imaging. Sla1-GFP for 1x strain was shifted to move inwards at the same time as the other two.

B:



**Sla1 and Rvs in gene duplicated diploids:**

In diploid cells expressing 1 (1xd), 2 (2xd), and 4 (4xd) copies of Rvs, Sla1 movement, Rvs dynamics, and recruitment numbers are compared.

In Fig.2.9A, Sla1 in the three cell types are shown. In all cases time=0 (s) corresponds to scission time. Sla1 movement is the same in 4xd and 2xd cells: they move at the same rate, and to the same lengths of about 140nm. In 1xd strain, Sla1 movement rate is the same till about 110nm, and is then slightly reduced. Sla1 movement in 1xd suggests that vesicle scission occurs at invagination lengths about 10nm shorter than that in 2xd and 4xd.

Rvs167 movement and molecule numbers are shown in Fig.2.9B,C.

Magnitude of inward movement of the Rvs is similar for the 4xd, 2xd and 1xd. In the 1x strain, however, the centroid disappears immediately after scission, suggesting that there is reduced Rvs at the base of the newly formed vesicle compared to the 2xd and 4xd.

Recruitment dynamics of Rvs in all three are different: in the 4xd strain, Rvs is recruited at a rate of about 51 molecules/second, which is reduced to 27.5 molec./sec. for 2xd and 13.6 molec./sec. for the 1xd. Recruitment of Rvs is not directly proportionate to gene copy number: maximum number of Rvs recruited increases from 101 from in the 2x Rvs strain to 143 in the 4x strain (see TABLEX). In the 1x Rvs strain, 80 molecules of Rvs are recruited before scission occurs. In order to determine whether this is a reflection on protein availability or if something else limits recruitment of Rvs, I roughly quantified the cytoplasmic intensity of Rvs167-GFP in the respective strains, and scaled them to 2xd to obtain a ratio of cytoplasmic intensity compared to the WT. As seen in TABLE2, the number of molecules recruited to endocytic sites scales with the amount of protein in the cytoplasm.

**Abp1 amounts in gene duplicated diploids:**

I measured the amount of Abp1 at endocytic sites in 4xd, 2xd, and 1xd diploid cells. Abp1 numbers here are quantified in cells containing Rvs167-GFP and Abp1-mCherry. Abp1-mCherry signal is then scaled to Nuf2-mCherry, similar to quantification method in Picco et al. that uses GFP instead of mCherry. Fig2.9D shows that even though the number of Rvs molecules recruited varies depending on number of Rvs gene copies, the same amount of Abp1 is recruited to endocytic sites in all three cases. In the Abp1 quantification in this case, only one allele of Abp1 is tagged with mCherry. The total amount of Abp1 is double the numbers reported here. Although Abp1 takes longer to reach these numbers, the maximum amount of Ab1 is the same in all cases.

Rvs gene duplication data suggests that even if Rvs is recruited up to 1.6x faster than in WT cells, membrane invaginations do not change in length. That the same amount of Abp1 is recruited irrespective of amount of Rvs suggests that the system is sensitive to amount of Abp1 rather than Rvs. Scission time is therefore likely to be triggered by the amount of force generated by the actin network.

**BAR domains as membrane scaffolds**

As mentioned in section R.1, the capacity for BAR domains to oligomerize and tubulate liposomes has proposed membrane scaffolding as a possible function in vivo. As membrane scaffolds, they would impose their own curvature on the underlying membrane and stabilize this shape. There are some requirements for a protein complex to act as a scaffold31:\\

1. it must have a defined membrane interface\\

2. it must have an intrinsic curvature\\

3. it must present be rigid in structure, and\\

4. membrane binding surface must be large enough to induce curvature\\

BAR domains present a curved shape as membrane interacting surface (Peter 2004, Gallop 2006, Weissenhorn 2005), and have the capacity to oligomerize into large assemblies on tubes (Mim 2012, Mizuno 2010, Takei 1999, Yin 2009). It has also been shown that the central BAR region is rigid and required for tubulation, both *in-vivo* and of liposomes32. BAR domains therefore meet all of these requirements.

It has been shown that BAR domains can prevent membrane scission by scaffolding the membrane, allows formation of stable tubular structures and prevents vesiculation of these structures33,34. In simulations, adding BAR domains to an invaginating tube removes membrane shape instabilities. Actin forces, membrane rigidity, tension, and turgor pressure result in a wide tip and shrinking tubular region that result in membrane shape instability and therefore scission. Adding curved BAR domains that have a preferred radius of curvature results in stabilization of the membrane shape and prevents scission34.

**R2.4 Coat movement is influenced by recruitment of BAR domain**

As observed in the previous section R2.3, Sla1 movement is decreased by decreased recruitment of Rvs, although adding excess protein does not influence it. In BAR cells Sla1 movement is reduced from WT to close to that of rvs167Δ. However, Rvs recruitment is also decreased. Reduced coat movement therefore could result from loss of the SH3 domain, or from reduced Rvs recruitment. To test this, I duplicated as described before, the BAR domain alone in haploid yeast cells. This results in two copies of the BAR domain (2xBAR). I then compared Sla1 and Rvs in 2xBAR against BAR (1xBAR), WT Rvs (1xh), duplicated Rvs (2xh), and rvs167del.

I compared recruitment of Rvs in the different cells. As shown in Fig.2.10C, 1x BAR is recruited at low copy numbers compared to WT . Maximum molecules recruited is 57 +/- 9.9, about 50% that of WT. Duplication of the BAR domain in 2x BAR increases this recruitment to 90.58 +/- 9.6. Compared to WT, recruitment of BAR domains increases to 62%.

Sla1 moves inwards at a rate of about 26nm/s. While duplication of the full-length Rvs genes does not change the rate of inward movement of Sla1, total rate of inward movement is reduced to 13.3nm/s in 1x BAR case. This rate increases to about 18nm/s in the 2x BAR case. Adding BAR domain increases the speed of inward movement, as well as depth to which Sla1 moves. Sla1 centroid in rvs167 deleted cells shows a movement similar to 1x BAR case.

This shows that shallow invaginations of the rvs167Δ can be rescued by recruiting only BAR domains of Rvs167.

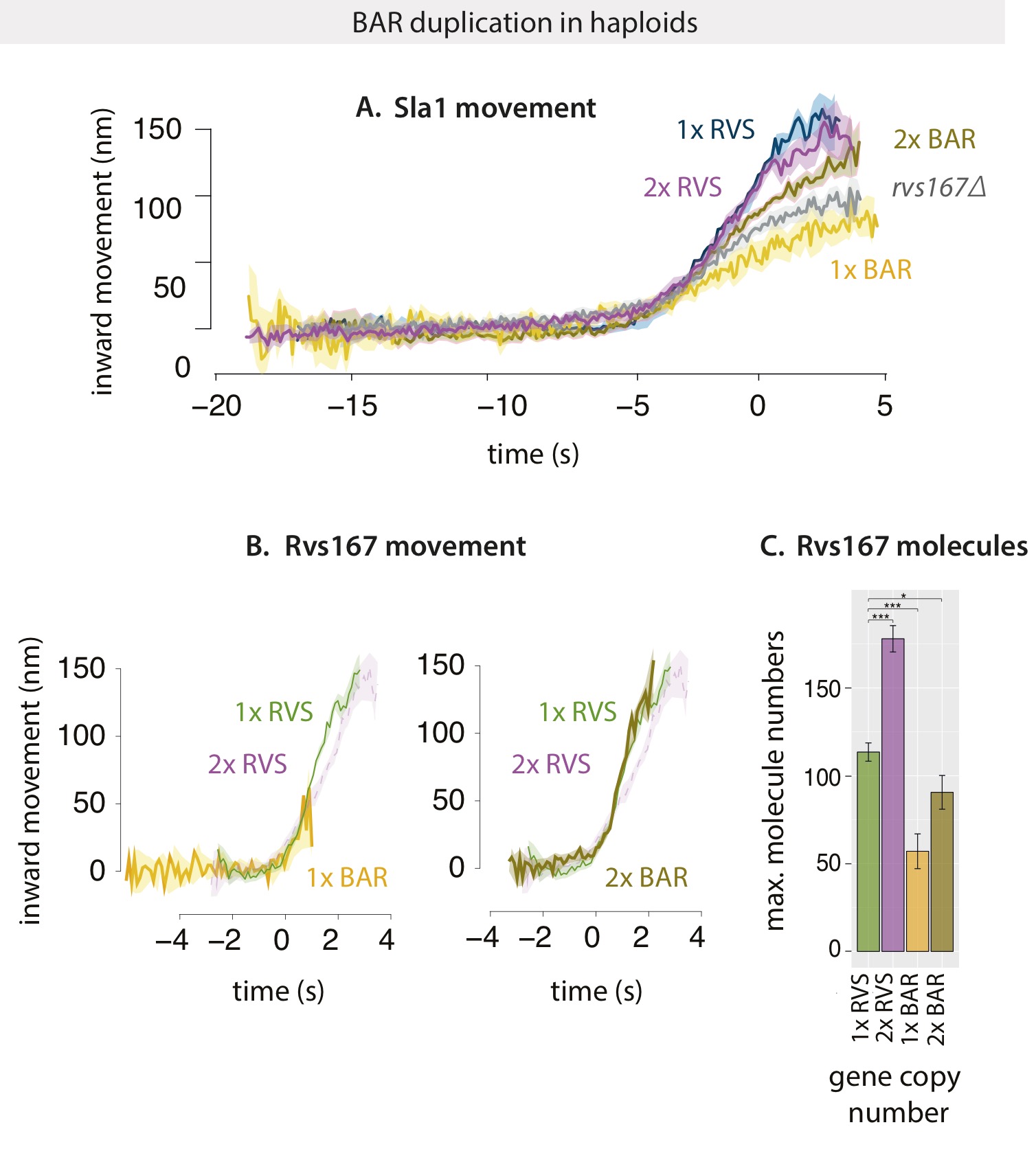


Fig.2.10 A: Averaged centroid movement of Sla1-GFP in diploid strains consisting of 1, 2, and 4 copies of the Rvs161 and Rvs167 genes. Sla1-GFP for 2x and 4x copies of Rvs are aligned so that Time=0 (s) corresponds to fluorescent intensity maxima of Abp1-mCherry in corresponding dual-color imaging. Sla1-GFP for 1x strain was shifted to move inwards at the same time as the other two.

B:

**Rvs as scaffold against turgor pressure**

Pressure, membrane tension, and rigidity influence the shape of membrane invaginations. In yeast, a high turgor pressure of 0.6-0.8 MPa pushes the plasma membrane against the cell wall. This pressure is opposed by the rigid cell wall, and the endocytic machinery must exert forces to bend and pull the plasma membrane away from the cell wall into the cytoplasm. Forces from actin polymerization are hence necessary to overcome this resistance to membrane invagination. In serge et al., simulations show that membrane tension has a negligible influence on forces required to pull the membrane. Shape of the membrane is dominated by membrane rigidity and turgor pressure. Membrane rigidity, which comes from the properties of the lipids and proteins embedded in it shapes the shape of the top of the invagination that is pulled up. Turgor pressure pushes inwards the membrane neck, constricting it.

Turgor pressure can be controlled by osmoregulating agents like sorbitol. Sorbitol treatment causes cells to expel water and increase the internal concentration of osmolytes to match that of the environment. When the cell expels water, they shrink in size, resulting in a brief decrease of turgor pressure. Loss of turgor pressure is compensated by Gpd1, which increases glycerol production in cells, and increases turgor pressure within 10 minutes of sorbitol treatment.

In fission yeast S.pombe, treatment with sorbitol shortens the time between arrival of the coat protein Sla1 and actin-binding protein App1, but does not affect the inward movement of the coat35. Sorbitol rescues the invagination defect of partially blocking actin with low doses of LatA. At 0.2M sorbitol, 90\% of Sla1 patches in these cells move inwards for 50nm instead of 300nm, but retract back to the plasma membrane.

Some WASP/Myosin mutations can be rescued by reducing turgor pressure. Deletion of myosin results in failure to invaginate, and this can be rescued up to 70\% when treated with 0.2 M Sorbitol. Loss of Fimbrin, which bundles actin filaments, and is also necessary for membrane invagination, can also be rescued by sorbitol. These experiments show that some defects in the force generation system can be compensated by lowering turgor pressure. Since sorbitol decreases the amount of time between App1 arrival and movement, reducing turgor pressure likely lowers the threshold force required to pull the membrane in the early stages of invagination. Consistent with this, simulations of Serge et al., show that the force requirement for membrane invagination is highest in the beginning of the invagination process.

An extension of the scaffold hypothesis for Rvs is that it protects the membrane tube against the high turgor pressure inside yeast cells. Reducing turgor pressure could then remove the requirement for Rvs scaffolding.

**R2.6 Requirement for Rvs is unchanged by membrane tension**

In order to test if the role of the Rvs scaffold is to counter the membrane constricting effect of turgor pressure, I studied Sla1 and Rvs in WT and rvs167del cells treated with 0.2M sorbitol. At higher concentrations of sorbitol, cells shrivel and die [ref]

In Fig.2.11, Sla1 movement in WT and rvs167 del cells with and without sorbitol is shown. WT Sla1 is aligned so that time=0 (s) corresponds to scission time. The other three centroid movements are shifted so that they move inwards at the same time as the WT. WT cells treated with sorbitol do not show any change in inward movement of Sla1. Both centroids move to the same lengths of 140nm at the same rate, consistent with S.pombe data from Basu et al. In rvs167del cells, Sla1 moves to about 80nm. In rvs167del cells treated with sorbitol, there is no difference in the movement. Both Sla1 centroids move at the same rate, and to the similar invagination lengths.

This shows that the Rvs scaffold does not serve to counter turgor pressure.

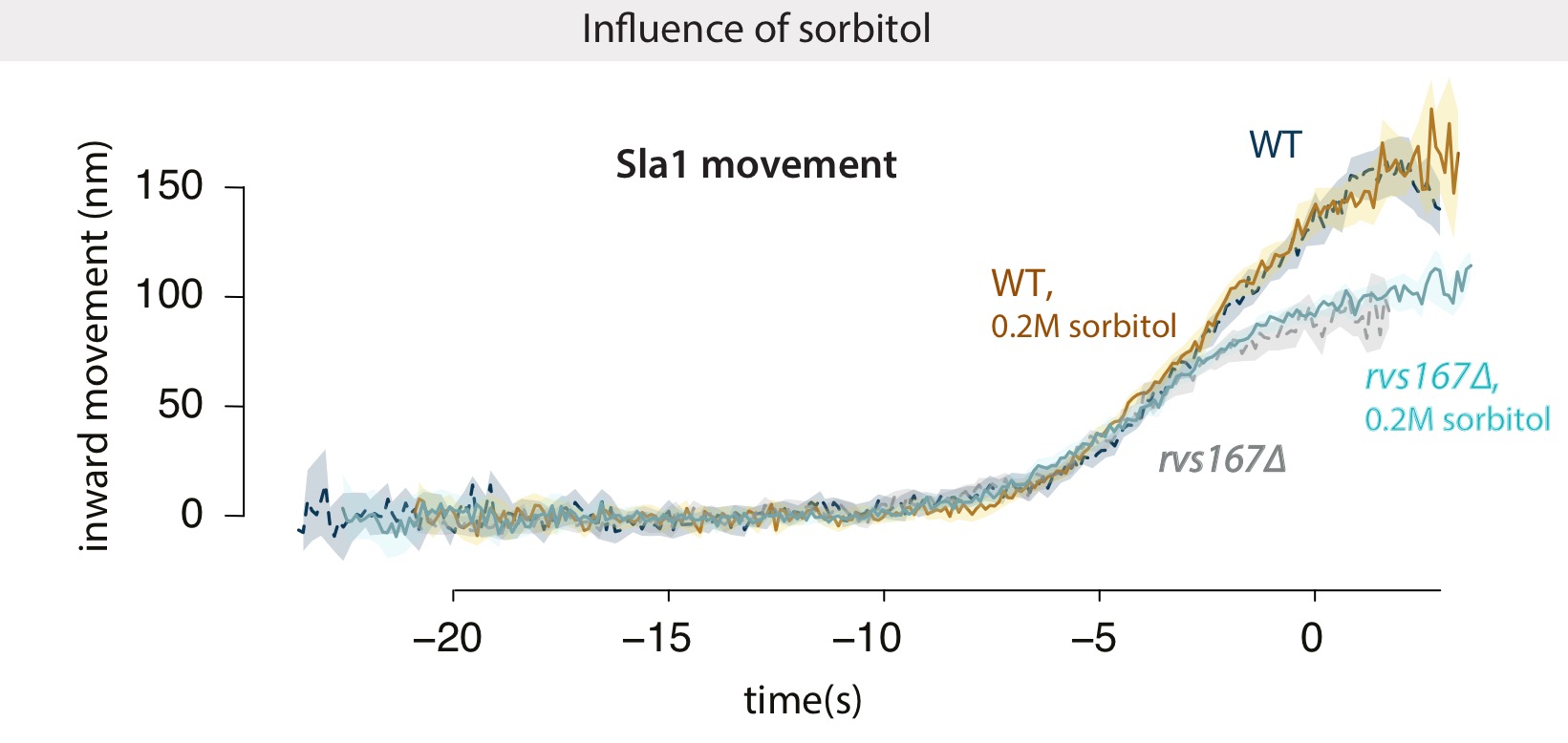


Fig.2.11 : Movement of Sla1-GFP in WT and rvs167del cells, with and without sorbitol treatment. WT Sla1 is aligned so that time=0 (s) corresponds to scission time. The other three centroids are shifted in time so that they begin to move inwards at the same time as WT.

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