

Supplementary material: Liu et al

Calculation of 8-focus filament proportions (Fig. 2)

The proportions of the 10 type of 8-focus (4 chromosome) cephalexin filaments were calculated based on:

- 1) the lineage relationship that linked F0(mother), F1(daughter), and F2 (grand-daughter) chromosomes in cephalexin filaments according to scenario No.2,
- 2) the proportions of F0 chromosomes that adopted *cis*-<LRLR> (p_1), *trans*-<LRLR> (p_2), <LRRL> (p_3), <RLLR> (p_4) during the F0→F1 generation, and
- 3) the proportions of F1 chromosomes that adopted *cis*-<LRLR> (p_5), *trans*-<LRLR> (p_6), <LRRL> (p_7), <RLLR> (p_8) during the F1→F2 generation.

If $p(<\text{LRLR}><\text{LRLR}>)$ was the proportion of <LRLR><LRLR> in a population of 8-focus cephalexin filaments, then we should have:

$$p(<\text{LRLR}><\text{LRLR}>) = (p_1+p_2)(p_5^2+p_6^2)+(p_3+p_4)p_5p_6$$

Similarly,

$$p(<\text{LRLR}><\text{RLRL}>) = (p_1+p_2)p_5p_6 + p_3p_5^2 + p_4p_6^2$$

$$p(<\text{RLRL}><\text{LRLR}>) = (p_1+p_2)p_5p_6 + p_3p_6^2 + p_4p_5^2$$

$$p(<\text{LRLR}><\text{LRRL}>) = (p_1+p_2)(p_5p_7+p_6p_7) + 2p_3p_5p_7 + 2p_4p_6p_7$$

$$p(<\text{LRLR}><\text{RLLR}>) = (p_1+p_2)(p_5p_8+p_6p_8) + 2p_3p_5p_8 + 2p_4p_6p_8$$

$$p(<\text{LRRL}><\text{LRLR}>) = (p_1+p_2)(p_5p_7+p_6p_7) + 2p_3p_6p_7 + 2p_4p_5p_7$$

$$p(<\text{RLLR}><\text{LRLR}>) = (p_1+p_2)(p_5p_8+p_6p_8) + 2p_3p_6p_8 + 2p_4p_5p_8$$

$$p(<\text{LRRL}><\text{LRRL}>) = (p_1+p_2+p_3+p_4)p^2$$

$$p(<\text{RLLR}><\text{RLLR}>) = (p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4)p_8^2$$

$$p(<\text{LRRL}><\text{RLLR}>) = 2(p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4)p_7p_8$$

The values of $(p_1 + p_2)$, p_3 , and p_4 , experimentally determined by examining F0→F1 events in the cell population before cephalexin treatment, were 75.22%, 10.78%, and 14.00%, respectively. The p_1/p_2 ratio was estimated to be 24.79 using time-lapse results shown in Fig 2D. Therefore, we have $p_1=72.31\%$, $p_2=2.92\%$, $p_3=10.78\%$, $p_4=14.00\%$.

The values of $(p_5 + p_6)$, p_7 , and p_8 , experimentally determined by examining the F1→F2 in 8-focus cephalexin filaments, were 77.87% , 9.51%, and 12.61%, respectively. Similarly, the p_5/p_6 ratio was estimated to be 24.79. Therefore we have $p_5=74.86\%$, $p_6=3.02\%$, $p_7=9.51\%$, $p_8=12.61\%$.

Using the formulas and the values of p_1-p_8 , the predicted proportions of 10 types of 8-focus cephalexin filaments according to scenario No.2 were calculated and presented in Fig.2.

Fig S1. Cell size distributions

A) Cell length histograms of L1'-R1' and L2'-R2' cell populations which have been used to generate the data in Fig 1B. In Fig. 1B, only cells with 4 foci were selected for measurement. In Fig S1A, however, all the cells (with 2 or 4 foci) were measured.

B) and **C)** Cell length histograms of the cell populations which have been used to generate the data in Fig. 3 Cells growing at 30°C are shown in Fig S1B and cells growing at 37°C are shown in Fig S1C. In Fig. 3B and 3C, only cells with 4 foci were

selected for analysis. In Fig S1B or Fig S1C, however, all the cells (with 2 or 4 foci) were measured.

Fig S2. Cell micrographs

A) Two time-lapse series (20 min interval) of F0→F2 cell generations. The R3 foci are shown in red. In the upper panel, The F0→F1 generation is *cis*-<LRLR> and the two F1→F2 generations are *cis*-<LRLR> and <RLLR>. In the lower panel, the F0→F1 generation is <LRRL> and the two F1→F2 generations are *cis*-<LRLR> and *cis*-<LRLR>. **B)** Snapshot images of the 8-focus cephalexin filaments with the L3 foci shown in green and the R3 foci shown in red.

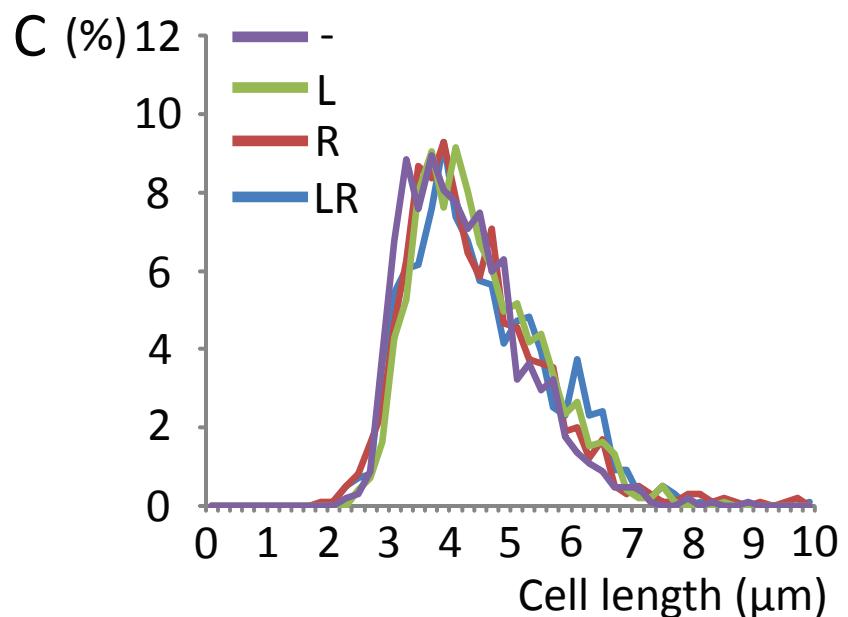
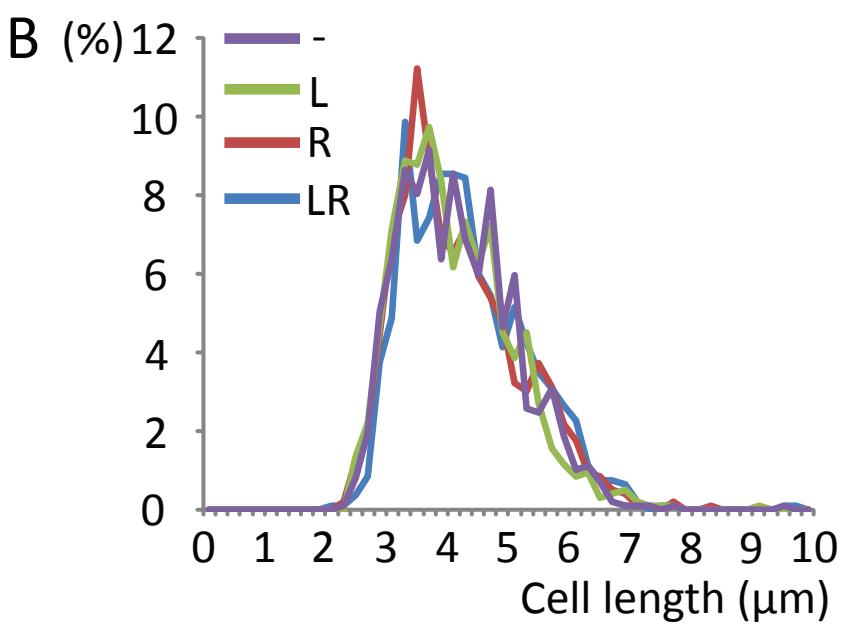
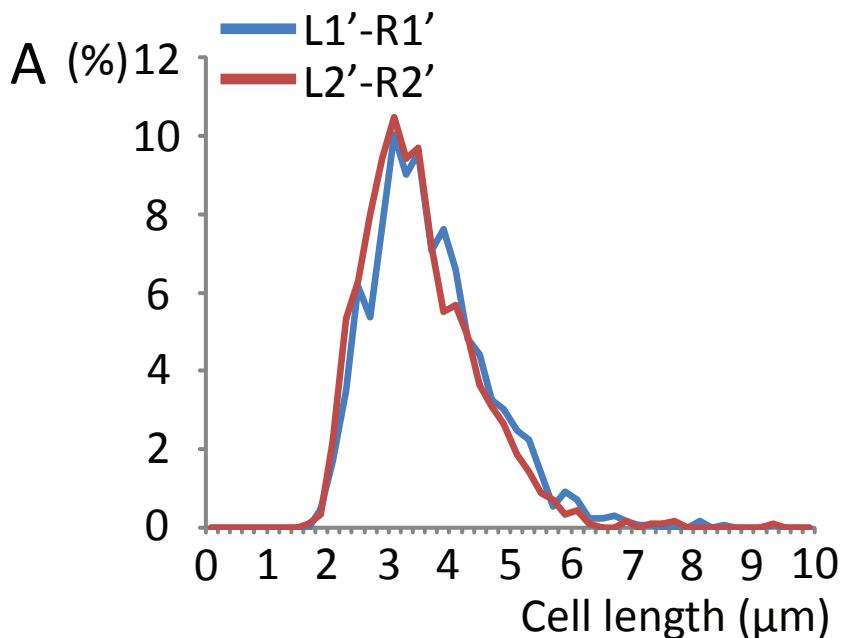


Fig S1_Liu et al.

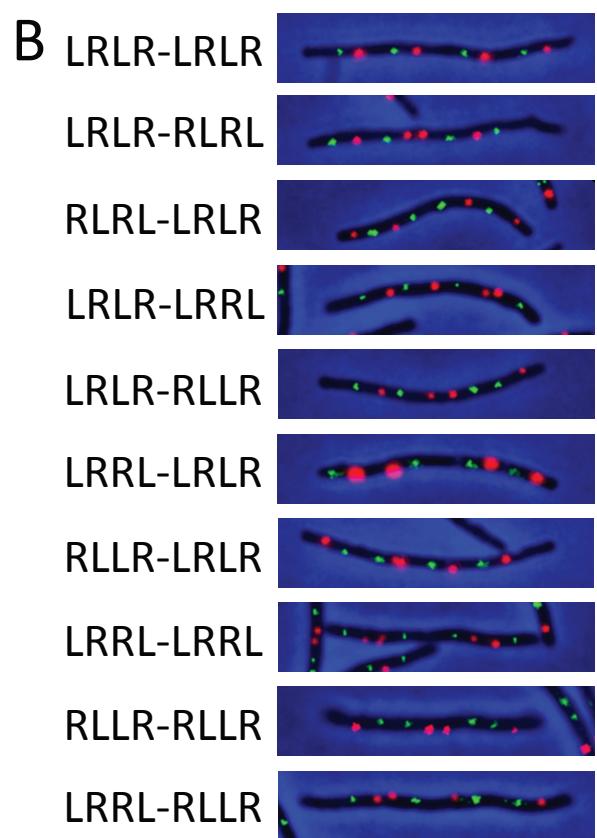
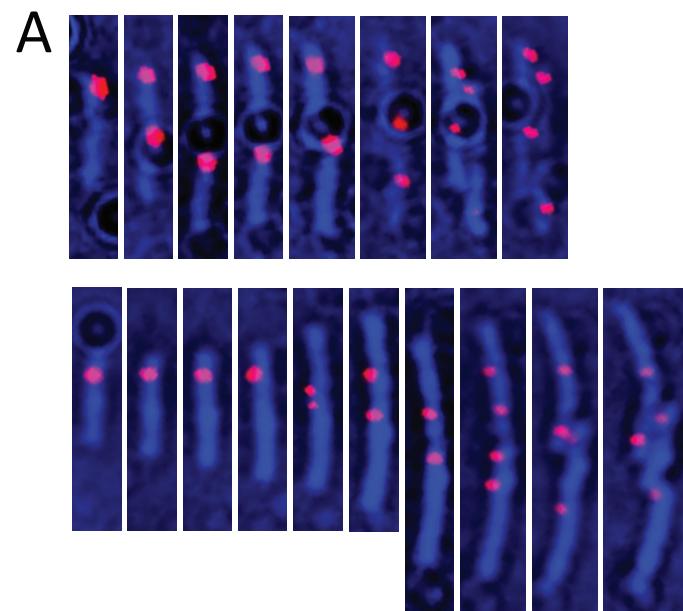


Fig. S2_Liu et al.