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Multilayered Control of Protein Turnover by TORC1 and Atg1

Graphical Abstract

Highlights

- S. cerevisiae proteins harbor a minimum of 45,000 distinct phosphorylation sites
- TORC1 and Atg1 regulate at least 26 protein and lipid kinases
- Atg1 phosphorylates upstream regulators of TORC1
- TORC1 phosphorylates Atg29 to inhibit autophagy

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In Brief

The target of rapamycin complex 1 (TORC1) is a master regulator of cell homeostasis, and one of its downstream targets is the Atg1 kinase complex. In the current study, Hu et al. highlight that TORC1 and Atg1 are coupled through intricate control mechanisms involving distinct bi-directional feedback loops critical for autophagy regulation.
Multilayered Control of Protein Turnover by TORC1 and Atg1

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SUMMARY

The target of rapamycin complex 1 (TORC1) is a master regulator of cell homeostasis, which promotes anabolic reactions and synchronously inhibits catabolic processes such as autophagy-mediated protein degradation. Its prime autophagy target is Atg13, a subunit of the Atg1 kinase complex that acts as the gatekeeper of canonical autophagy. To study whether the activities of TORC1 and Atg1 are coupled through additional, more intricate control mechanisms than simply this linear pathway, we analyzed the epistatic relationship between TORC1 and Atg1 by using quantitative phosphoproteomics. Our in vivo data, combined with targeted in vitro TORC1 and Atg1 kinase assays, not only uncover numerous TORC1 and Atg1 effectors, but also suggest distinct bi-directional regulatory feedback loops and characterize Atg29 as a commonly regulated downstream target of both TORC1 and Atg1. Thus, an exquisitely multilayered regulatory network appears to coordinate TORC1 and Atg1 activities to robustly tune autophagy in response to nutritional cues.

INTRODUCTION

Cells continually adapt their metabolisms to meet nutrient and energy requirements in response to environmental cues. The target of rapamycin complex 1 (TORC1) signaling pathway plays a key role in homeostatically regulating metabolism, cell growth, and proliferation in response to nutrients and growth factors (Albert and Hall, 2015; Saxton and Sabatini, 2017). Under conditions that promote growth, the TORC1 protein kinase stimulates protein synthesis and inhibits protein degradation via macroautophagy (hereafter referred to as autophagy) (Dikic and Elazar, 2018; Hurley and Young, 2017; Kamada et al., 2010). Nutrient limitation, in turn, results in TORC1 inhibition and, consequently, the induction of autophagy, an evolutionarily conserved catabolic process. Autophagy critically contributes to cell survival through the recycling of macromolecular complexes and the removal of nonfunctional and potentially toxic cellular components by autophagosome-mediated vacuolar or lysosomal degradation (Mizushima et al., 2011).

In yeast, more than 42 autophagy-related (Atg) proteins are critical for vacuolar targeting of cytoplasmic components (Dikic and Elazar, 2018). Several of them are part of five conserved protein complexes that form the core Atg machinery (Klionsky et al., 2011): (1) the Atg1 kinase complex (comprising Atg1, Atg13, Atg17, Atg29, and Atg31), which is critical for autophagy initiation; (2) the class III phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase complex (comprising Vps34, Vps15, Atg6, and Atg14), which generates the lipid phosphatidylinositol-3-phosphate that serves as the docking site for protein recruitment; (3) the Atg9 cycling system (comprising Atg9, Atg2, and Atg18), which provides part of the vesicles for autophagosome generation; (4) the Atg12 ubiquitin-like conjugation system (comprising Atg7, Atg10, Atg5, and Atg16), which generates the Atg12-Atg5/Atg16 complex that has E3 enzyme-like activity toward Atg8; and (5) the Atg8 ubiquitin-like conjugation system (comprising Atg7, Atg3, and Atg8), which leads to the conjugation of Atg8 to phosphatidylethanolamine, with Atg8 being critical for phagophore expansion and cargo recruitment (Dikic and Elazar, 2018).

TORC1 controls autophagy by directly impinging on the yeast Atg1 and mammalian ULK1 kinase complexes. In yeast, TORC1 inhibits Atg1 kinase activity and, consequently, autophagy by directly phosphorylating the Atg1 kinase complex subunit Atg13 (Kamada et al., 2000, 2010). In mammals, mTORC1 phosphorlalates both ATG13 and ULK1 (Hosokawa et al., 2009; Jung et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2011). Current knowledge suggests a simple linear relationship between TORC1 and Atg1. However, regulatory modules that critically define cellular fitness are often embedded into multilayered mechanisms that ensure robust cellular responses. Accordingly, robustness can be generated by redundancies and inbuilt cross-communication between elements of signaling pathways, which ensure that only stimuli of the appropriate strength and duration are able to turn on or off their respective cellular responses (Azeloglu and Iyengar, 2015). Whether TORC1 and Atg1 are more intricately interconnected through such mechanisms is largely unanswered. In part, this is because the compendium of TORC1 and Atg1 target residues is currently incomplete. To address this outstanding issue, we decided to develop a mass spectrometry (MS)-based phosphoproteomics strategy that combines global proteomics...
screens in vivo with targeted in vitro protein kinase assays. Specifically, we present here the currently largest set of TORC1-dependent phosphorylation events in the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae; identify numerous hitherto unknown TORC1 and Atg1 effectors; and characterize functionally relevant, new TORC1 target sites on Atg1 complex subunits. Our combined data highlight the existence of a sophisticated network of bi-directional regulatory feedback loops and nodes of convergence between TORC1 and Atg1, indicating that these signaling hubs are much more intricately interconnected than previously realized.

RESULTS

The Rapamycin-Sensitive Phosphoproteome: Modulation of Pathways Controlling Protein Homeostasis

To cover comprehensively the potential TORC1 and Atg1 target sites, we performed a set of 10 stable isotope labeling by amino acids in cell culture (SILAC)-based quantitative phosphoproteomics experiments comparing wild-type (WT) and atg1Δ cells in the presence and absence of the highly specific allosteric TORC1 inhibitor rapamycin (Bentley and Banker, 2015; Harding et al., 1989; Heitman et al., 1991; Yang et al., 2013). Differentially labeled cells were treated, or untreated, for 30 min with rapamycin before mixing pellets and processing phosphopeptides for MS/MS analysis (Batth et al., 2014) (Figure 1A; see STAR Methods for details). The 10 SILAC experiments recorded five biological replicates, each comparing the responses of WT and atg1Δ cells to rapamycin treatment (Figures S1A and S1B). In total, we identified more than 36,600 phosphosites on 3,508 proteins (Figure 1B)—on average, more than 20,000 sites per experiment. Of these modifications, 76% were on serines, 23% on threonines, and 1% on tyrosines, which is congruent with published data (Batth et al., 2018; Paulo and Gygi, 2015) (Figure 1C). The number of newly identified sites per replicate indicated that we approached saturation, and we estimate that our experimental setup would allow us to identify a maximum of about 45,000 phosphorylation sites (Figure 1D; see STAR Methods for details). Thus, our dataset appears to cover more than 80% of the detectable yeast phosphoproteome.

Of the 36,600 identified sites, more than 32,000 were quantified (Figure 1B). To identify robust phosphorylation-based responses to rapamycin treatment, we stringently filtered the generated data: sites had to be localized to a specific amino acid residue with a probability >0.75 (class I sites according to Olsen et al. [2006]); had to be quantified in a minimum of three biological replicates; and were normalized to respective protein abundances to separate regulated phosphosites from regulated proteins. A total of 23,375 phosphosites fulfilled these criteria (Figure 1B; Table S1).
To identify sites that exhibited a significant fold change in phosphorylation due to rapamycin treatment, we generated a statistical model combining all the biological replicates and sites into a single analysis. The SILAC experiments were split into two groups to identify (1) potential TORC1-regulated sites that responded negatively to rapamycin treatment and (2) potential Atg1-regulated sites that responded positively to rapamycin treatment. TORC1 sites had to be significantly downregulated in WT cells plus rapamycin compared to WT cells minus rapamycin (I in Figure 3), atg1Δ cells plus rapamycin compared to atg1Δ cells minus rapamycin (II in Figure 3), and WT cells plus rapamycin compared to atg1Δ cells minus rapamycin (III in Figure 3). Atg1 sites had to be significantly upregulated in (I), (II), and (IV) WT cells plus rapamycin compared to atg1Δ cells plus rapamycin. In addition, Atg1 sites should exhibit no change or a significantly smaller change in experiment (2) compared to (1). As five biological replicates per condition were performed, 15 replicates per protein kinase were used to identify significantly regulated sites. Specifically, we used a random effect model considering the variability among biological replicates, among sites, as well as the number of replicates for each site. Next, the average fold changes and their corresponding 95% confidence intervals were extracted for each site (Figure 2A). This led to a final list of 586 sites (on 309 proteins) and 162 sites (on 128 proteins) that were significantly down- and upregulated by rapamycin treatment, respectively (min. average fold change of 2; p < 0.05; Table S1). This list included less than 2.5% of the quantified phosphosites, which reflects the stringent criteria used for defining robust phosphorylation-based signaling responses to rapamycin treatment. Notably, our data cover on average 76% (67%–85%; Figure S1C) of all quantified phosphorylated sites in similar phosphoproteomics datasets (Iesmantavicius et al., 2014; Oliveira et al., 2015; Paulo and Gygi, 2015; Souillard et al., 2010) and list 14,599 additional, hitherto unknown phosphorylation events. Our study further corroborates, on average, 12% of the reported rapamycin-sensitive sites (4%–15%; Figure S1D). Importantly, our study overlaps to a larger extent with published datasets than the respective datasets with one another when considering the total number of rapamycin-sensitive sites.

Virtually all of the previously known proximal TORC1 targets were identified as rapamycin-sensitive, including Atg13 (Kamada et al., 2010), Lst4 (Péli-Gulli et al., 2017), Sch9 (Urban et al., 2007), Sfp1 (Lempiäinen et al., 2009), Ypk3 (González et al., 2015; Yerlikaya et al., 2016), and Vps27 (Hatakeyama et al., 2019) (Table S2). In addition, we detected numerous potential TORC1 target residues within the TORC1 subunit Tco89 (Reinke et al., 2004), which reveals that TORC1 undergoes extensive autophosphorylation. Analyzing the amino acid sequences flanking the regulated phosphosites of potential TORC1 targets, we found similarities to the published yeast and human consensus phosphorylation motifs with proline, aliphatic, or aromatic residues in position +1 (Kang et al., 2013; Mok et al., 2010; Oliveira et al., 2015; Urban et al., 2007) (Figure 2B). The two arginine residues in positions –3 and –2 perfectly match with a consensus phosphorylation site assigned to the direct TORC1 target and protein kinase Sch9 (Huber et al., 2000), indicating that our dataset probably contains Sch9 substrates (see below).

Among the proteins that are phosphorylated in an Atg1-dependent manner in rapamycin-treated cells, our analyses gratifyingly distinguished the known Atg1 target proteins Atg2, Atg9, and Atg29 (Mao et al., 2013; Papinski et al., 2014). Moreover, the Atg1 consensus motif analysis infers aliphatic amino acid residues in position –3 (Figure 2B), which matches well with the previously proposed Atg1/ULK1 motifs (Egan et al., 2015; Papinski et al., 2014). Thus, our data appear to be of high quality, as they largely confirm current knowledge.

To get a global overview of TORC1- and Atg1-regulated signaling pathways and cellular processes, we next performed Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analyses of proteins carrying regulated phosphosites. Potential TORC1 targets were significantly enriched in proteins involved in metabolic processes and positive regulation of gene expression (p < 0.05, Bonferroni corrected; Figure 2C; Table S3). Potential Atg1 targets were significantly enriched in proteins involved in retrograde transport and autophagy (Figure 2C; Table S3). Besides corroborating the known cellular functions, our data indicate that both kinase complexes control additional processes that are important for protein homeostasis (e.g., transcription and vacuole organization). Interestingly, we also identified a significant enrichment of regulated sites on protein kinases, indicating that rapamycin treatment modulates the activities of protein kinases other than solely TORC1 and Atg1, which is also suggested by our motif analysis (see above; Figures 2B and 2C). To pinpoint new TORC1 effector and/or target kinases, we isolated enriched linear phosphorylation motifs from the rapamycin-sensitive phosphorylation sites and used KinomeXplorer to identify kinases capable of phosphorylating them (Figure 2D) (Horn et al., 2014). We identified four and five motifs within the down- and upregulated sites, respectively. Expectedly, rapamycin appeared to have negative effects on Sch9 and the protein kinase A isoforms Tpk1 and Tpk2 (Souillard et al., 2010; Urban et al., 2007). Also, the known TORC1 downstream effector Gcn2 was identified in these analyses (Cherkasova and Hinnebusch, 2003). Interestingly, next to Atg1, the DNA-damage-responsive, phosphatidylinositol-kinase-related kinases Mec1 and Tel1 appeared to be capable of phosphorylating sites upregulated by rapamycin treatment (Figure 2D). Mec1 has recently been shown to be critical for both the induction of autophagy after genotoxic treatment and for glucose starvation-induced autophagy (Eapen et al., 2017; Yi et al., 2017). Our data therefore suggest that Mec1 and Tel1 may be able to act in concert with or take over Atg1 functions under specific conditions (Corcoles-Saez et al., 2018). The extensive effects of rapamycin treatment on the kinome inspired us to perform a more detailed analysis of protein kinases carrying regulated phosphosites that may be functionally relevant.

**TORC1 and Atg1 Regulate Cell Homeostasis through a Highly Cross-Connected Network of Protein Kinases**

In total, we identified 23 protein and 3 lipid kinases harboring defined phosphosites that are significantly regulated by either TORC1 or Atg1 (Figure 3). Of the ones regulated by TORC1, Sch9 and Ypk3 are bona fide proximal targets (González et al., 2015; Martin et al., 2004; Urban et al., 2007; Yerlikaya et al., 2016), while Npr1 and Gcn2 have been described as distally...
controlled by TORC1 (Garcia-Barrio et al., 2002; Schmidt et al., 1998). In addition, several of the other TORC1-controlled protein kinases have previously been found to be part of the TORC1-associated protein kinase network (Breitkreutz et al., 2010), including Bck1, Ksp1, and Sky1, which were also linked to autophagic processes (Krause and Gray, 2002; Manjithaya et al., 2010; Rodriguez-Lombardero et al., 2014; Umekawa and Klionsky, 2012). Besides precisely pinpointing the phosphorylation events that are likely functionally relevant for processing signals that emanate from TORC1, these findings uncover the existence of multiple regulatory layers by which TORC1 may control autophagic processes other than phosphorylating Atg13 (Kamada et al., 2000). Of note, we also identified four potential TORC1 sites on Atg1, in agreement with data obtained on mammalian ULK1 (Hosokawa et al., 2009; Jung et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2011).

Figure 2. The Rapamycin-Sensitive Phosphoproteome

(A) Statistical approach for the identification of significant regulated phosphosites by rapamycin treatment. The gray curve indicates the SILAC ratio distribution of 23,375 phosphosites, comparing cells grown in the presence and absence of rapamycin (30 min). As an example for regulated and non-regulated sites, 12 sites are shown with their average values and confidence intervals. Blue sites are significantly downregulated, and red sites are significantly upregulated by rapamycin treatment (p > 0.05). Two-fold cutoff values are marked by colored dashed lines.

(B) Motif analyses of potential TORC1 and Atg1 phosphosites responding minimally 2-fold to rapamycin treatment. Potential TORC1 sites are downregulated, and potential Atg1 sites are upregulated by rapamycin treatment.

(C) GO term enrichment analysis of proteins carrying positive and negative regulated phosphosites highlights perturbed cell homeostasis.

(D) Motif analyses and predictions of kinases potentially being perturbed by rapamycin treatment.

See also Figure S1.
Tco89; and/or (3) controlling the Ser445/Ser449 phosphorylation within the PI3-kinase Vps34 that is key for TORC1 and autophagy activation (Reidick et al., 2017; Tanigawa and Maeda, 2017) (Figure 3). Lastly, Atg1 also converges with TORC1 on Gcn2. Thus, Atg1 signaling seems to be much more intimately connected to TORC1 signaling than previously anticipated. Not surprisingly, this close relationship also extends to include the Snf1/AMPK complex, a major energy sensor and negative regulator of TORC1 in eukaryotic cells (Figure 3) (Hughes Hallett et al., 2015). Accordingly, TORC1 may feedback regulate Snf1 by controlling the phosphorylation state of various residues in the Snf1-activating protein kinase Sak1 and the Snf1 complex β-subunits Sip1 and Gal83 (Elbing et al., 2006; Schmidt and McCartney, 2000).

**TORC1 and Atg1 Regulate Autophagy on Multiple Layers**

Our SILAC-based screen indicated that Atg2, Atg9, Atg13, Atg26, and Atg29 carried both potential TORC1 and Atg1 target residues (Figure 4A). Using a phospho-specific antibody that recognizes pSer554 on Atg13, we corroborated in one case that a potential TORC1 target residue is indeed rapidly dephosphorylated in rapamycin-treated cells (Figure 4B). To test if any of the identified phosphorylation events were bona fide TORC1 or Atg1 sites, we then purified the 36 Atg proteins of yeast that are known to be involved in canonical autophagy (Wen and Klionsky, 2016) and performed TORC1 and Atg1 in vitro kinase assays coupled to quantitative MS as readout (Figure 4C) (Hatakeyama et al., 2019; Péli-Gulli et al., 2017). Proteins were purified from tandem affinity purification (TAP)- and glutathione S-transferase (GST)-tagged yeast collections (Gelperin et al., 2005; Zhu et al., 2000) and kinase assays in combination with MS sample processing were performed on molecular-weight cutoff filters using 18O4-labeled ATP to separate in vitro from remnant in vivo phosphorylation events (Figure 4D) (Xue et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2007). To identify direct phosphorylation events of Atg1 and TORC1, we performed label-free quantitative proteomics experiments comparing kinase assays with Atg1WT to the ones with Atg1 kinase dead, and kinase assays with TORC1 with or without wortmannin (n = 3; Table S4), a PI3K inhibitor that potently inhibits TORC1 (Brunn et al., 1996; Urban et al., 2007). Of note, background phosphorylation levels were similar for all Atg substrates, and we did not identify elevated phosphorylation levels of Atg1 complex members. The respective data covered 139 out of 182 phosphosites on both Atg proteins and TORC1 subunits that are reported in the Saccharomyces Genome Database (76%; https://www.yeastgenome.org/). Notably, we further identified 406 hitherto unknown sites, indicating that our dataset includes and significantly expands the known, potentially biologically relevant target sites of Atg1 and TORC1 on Atg proteins. In vitro analyses confirmed the Atg1 motif generated using in vivo data (Figure 4E). The inferred in vivo and in vitro TORC1 motifs, however, differed substantially, which indicates that many of the rapamycin-sensitive phosphosites might be regulated indirectly by TORC1 effector kinases, such as Sch9 (Figure 2D), or protein phosphatases, such as Ptc2/3, that remove inhibitory TORC1 phosphosites from the Atg1-Atg13 complex (Memisoglu et al., 2019). From the in vitro data, we conclude that TORC1 phosphorylates preferentially serine residues that are followed...
Figure 4. Filter-Aided In Vitro Kinase Assay to Identify Direct TORC1 and Atg1 Substrates
(A) Atg protein network carrying potential in vivo Atg1 and TORC1 sites generated by STRING database (DB). The thickness of connections indicates the strength of data support.
(B) Immunoblot analysis highlighting that Atg13 is phosphorylated by TORC1 on S554. A custom-made, site-specific antibody recognizing the phosphorylation of S554 on Atg13 and an anti-hemagglutinin (HA) antibody were used.

(legend continued on next page)
by hydrophobic residues in position +1. In vitro kinase assays
appear, therefore, to be a valuable tool to corroborate direct TORC1 targets within the Atg protein network (Kang et al., 2013).

We identified phosphosites on 20 of the 36 purified Atg proteins, several of them being conserved in higher organisms (Figures S2 and S3; Table S4). By combining in vivo and in vitro analyses, it became evident that Atg1 and TORC1 likely regulate autophagy on multiple layers. So far, it was thought that TORC1 regulates solely the initiation of autophagy by phosphorylating Atg13. Our data, however, reveal additional TORC1 sites on Atg1, Atg2, Atg9, and Atg29 (Figures 4F and S2). Whereas Atg29 is also part of the Atg1 complex regulating the signal initiation, Atg2 and Atg9 take part in downstream processes that are critical for phagophore nucleation and expansion (Wen and Klionsky, 2016). The role of Atg1 appeared even more intertwined with the rest of the Atg machinery. It phosphorylated Atg2, Atg9, Atg12, Atg13, Atg23, and Atg29 (Figures 4F and S2), having potential implications in multiple steps of autophagosome biogenesis (Wen and Klionsky, 2016). Thus, TORC1 and Atg1 signaling appeared closely interconnected, phosphorylating multiple members of the Atg protein network, which may allow robust and coordinated control of autophagy initiation.

To test for biological relevance of the newly identified phosphosites, we analyzed their effects on autophagy using the Pho8Δ60 assay as described (Noda et al., 1995). We focused on the Atg1 complex member Atg29 and generated an atg29Δ strain, which displayed a significant effect in autophagy activity under nitrogen starvation conditions (Figures 4G and 4H). In agreement with published data, serine-to-alanine mutations of Atg1 target sites Ser197, Ser199, and Ser201 (SA) significantly reduced autophagy (Figures 4G and S3A; p < 0.01) (Mao et al., 2013). Importantly, a single phospho-mimicking threonine-to-glutamate mutation of the newly identified TORC1 target site Thr115 (T115E) also significantly decreased autophagic activity under starvation conditions, whereas a threonine-to-alanine mutation (T115A) had no effect (Figure 4G; p < 0.001). Thus, Atg29 integrates both Atg1 and TORC1 signaling in vivo to properly regulate autophagy.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we comprehensively characterized signaling events regulated by two conserved kinase complexes—the TORC1 and its downstream effector Atg1—critical for cell homeostasis during nutrient deprivation. Moreover, we identified a multilayered control of autophagy by TORC1 and Atg1 signaling, including negative and positive feedback loops, by generating the currently most comprehensive dataset of rapamycin-sensitive, phosphorylation-based signaling events in the budding yeast S. cerevisiae, covering 36,600 phosphorylation sites and over 80% of the technically detectable phosphorylated residues. Compared to published reports, our data corroborate, on average, 12% of the reported rapamycin-sensitive sites, which highlights the experimental and biological noise of phosphoproteomics studies. To address this challenge, we decided to perform five biological replicates and to stringently filter the reported regulated sites using a random effect model.

The question if specific sites are direct kinase targets or if the observed effects are of secondary nature conveyed by downstream effector kinases is not easy to address. The kinetic analysis of in vivo events may shed light onto primary and secondary events (Oliveira et al., 2015; Rigbolt et al., 2014). However, the gold standard for proving direct kinase-substrate interactions is still classical in vitro kinase assays. Therefore, we purified 36 yeast Atg proteins that are involved in starvation-induced autophagy and used them as substrates in in vitro protein kinase assays (Wen and Klionsky, 2016). Notably, we filtered the in vitro data with in vivo recordings to eliminate non-physiological phosphorylation events in vitro (e.g., due to missing binding partners or cellular compartmentalization). Thus, the sites shortlisted are likely to correspond to bona fide TORC1 or Atg1 sites.

Within the set of protein kinases exhibiting potential TORC1 sites, we identified several that have previously been linked to autophagic processes: (1) Bck1 mediates signals from Pkc1 to Mkk1/2 within the cell wall integrity MAPK signaling pathway (Krause and Gray, 2002), which is required for the induction of pexophagy in yeast (Manjithaya et al., 2010); (2) Ksp1 inhibits autophagy by antagonizing the dephosphorylation of Atg13 (Umeckawa and Klionsky, 2012); and (3) Sky1 modulates mitophagy (Rodrı̈ guez-Lombardero et al., 2014). Shared signaling events between organelle-specific autophagy subtypes and bulk autophagy might indicate that selective autophagy contributes to the bulk protein turnover observed in nutrient-starvation conditions. Supporting this hypothesis, we identified regulated phosphosites on Cue5, a ubiquitin-Atg8 receptor involved in the selective degradation of polyQ proteins (Lu et al., 2014), on the ubiquitin protease Ubp3/Bre5 as being critical for ribophagy.

(C) Sequence mapping of proteins used in in vitro kinase assays. Sequence coverage of Atg proteins purified from GST- and TAP-tagged yeast strains is shown. Trypsin was used as protease for bottom-up proteomics experiments. Error bars indicate standard deviations (n = 3).
(D) Workflow of the filter-aided in vitro kinase assay. Phosphopeptides enriched by TiO2 chromatography are analyzed by LC-MS/MS.
(E) Sequence motifs of phosphosites enriched in TORC1 and Atg1 in vivo kinase assays.
(F) Graphical representation of purified Atg29 used in in vitro kinase assays. In vitro TORC1 sites are annotated in blue and Atg1 sites in red. Sites that are underlined and marked in bold were identified by in vivo and in vitro assays. Protein sequences covered by MS analyses are marked in green.
(G) Cells (pho8Δ60 labeled with WT; pho8Δ60 atg29Δ labeled with atg29Δ; j were transformed with an empty vector (empty) or vectors encoding the indicated HA-tagged Atg29 variants. Cells were grown exponentially for 24 h in SD (+N) and then shifted to SD-N for 3 h (-N). Protein extracts were analyzed by ALP assay. Error bars were obtained from at least three independent repeats and indicate SDs. Pho8Δ60 phosphatase activities were normalized to the ones of nitrogen-starved WT cells (100%). **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001, t test.
(H) In parallel, protein extracts were also subjected to immunoblot analysis (using anti-HA antibodies) to assess the appropriate expression of the HA-tagged Atg29 variants (upper part of the panel). Ponceau staining served as loading controls (lower part). Note that the altered migration pattern of Atg29-T115E is likely caused by an altered charge state of the protein due to the introduction of an acidic amino acid. See also Figures S2 and S3.
negatively regulated by rapamycin treatment. Importantly, we characterized Atg1, Atg2, Atg9, and Atg29 as potential direct TORC1 targets within the Atg machinery. Thus, similar to the situation in mammalian cells where ULK1 itself was identified as an mTORC1 target (Hosokawa et al., 2009; Jung et al., 2009), we identified one phosphosite (Ser518) on Atg1 as a potential direct TORC1 site. Inter-

sokawa et al., 2009; Jung et al., 2009), we identified one phos-
cells where ULK1 itself was identified as an mTORC1 target (Ho-

Atg machinery. Thus, similar to the situation in mammalian

2003)( Table S1). Importantly, we characterized Atg1, Atg2,
piecemeal microautophagy of the nucleus (Roberts et al.,

(Kraft et al., 2008) and on Nvj1 and Vac8, which cooperate in piecemeal microautophagy of the nucleus (Roberts et al.,

mechanistic approaches.

response to nutritional cues, and it lays the groundwork for future

The authors declare no competing interests.

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In Vitro Kinase Assay

○ Yeast strains, plasmids, and growth conditions

○ Sample preparation of in vivo SILAC experiments

○ Filter-Aided In Vitro Kinase Assay

○ Phosphopeptide Enrichment

○ LC-MS/MS Analyses

○ ALP assays for the determination of autophagic flux and immunoblot analysis

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.
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trols the entire pathway, including organelle-specific autophagy

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subtypes as well as autophagosome-vacuole fusion, by phos-

phosphorylating the SNARE proteins Vti1 and Ykt6 (Table S1)( Bas et

imported into future investigations to understand their signifi-
cance in autophagy and beyond. Within the Atg protein network,

we identified new bona fide Atg1 sites on Atg2, Atg9, Atg13,

Thr115 of Atg29.

Next to TORC1 target sites, we also characterized 162 poten-
tial Atg1 sites on 128 proteins. Our data confirmed phosphoryla-
tions on Atg2 (Ser249) and Atg9 (Ser802 and Ser969) (Papinski et

and Kraft, C. (2018). Reconstitution reveals Ykt6 as the autophagosomal


In summary, our study uncovers
trols the entire pathway, including organelle-specific autophagy

Subti l

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Yeast strains, plasmids, and growth conditions

In vitro Kinase Assay

Data and Code Availability

Quantification and Statistical Analysis

Method Details

STAR Methods

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

○ Yeast strains, plasmids, and growth conditions

○ Sample preparation of in vivo SILAC experiments

○ Filter-Aided In Vitro Kinase Assay

○ Phosphopeptide Enrichment

○ LC-MS/MS Analyses

○ ALP assays for the determination of autophagic flux and immunoblot analysis

Quantiﬁcation and Statistical Analysis

Data and Code Availability

Supplemental Information

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Publications: September 24, 2019

Supporting Citations

The following references appear in the Supplemental Information: Bertram et

et al. (2000); Boeckstaens et al. (2014); Boeckstaens et al. (2015); Bontron et

et al. (2013); Breslow and Weissman (2010); Dever et al. (1992); Feng et al.

et al. (2010); Varlakhanova et al. (2018); Wanke et al. (2005); Wanke et al.

et al. (2008); Yeh et al. (2010).

Carea

J.

2002, 191, 3486–3496, September 24, 2019

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## STAR★METHODS

### KEY RESOURCES TABLE

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### Critical Commercial Assays

| Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit | Thermo Scientific | 23227 |
| ECL Western Blotting Detection | GE Healthcare | RPN2106 |

### Deposited Data

| MS-RAW files | ProteomeXchange | PXD013271 |

### Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains

| TBS50a         | Schmelzle et al., 2004 | MATα; trp1, his3, ura3-S2, leu2-3,112, rme1 |
| RL170-2C (Figures S2 and S3) | Hatakeyama et al., 2019 | [TBS50a] TCO89-TAP::TRP1 |
| BY4741 (Figures S2 and S3) | Euroscarf | MATα; his3Δ1, leu2Δ0, met15Δ0, ura3Δ0 |

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Recombinant DNA

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LEAD CONTACT AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY

Further information and requests for resources and reagents, i.e., plasmids, yeast strains and antibodies generated in this study, should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Jörn Dengjel (joern.dengjel@unifr.ch). This study did not generate new unique reagents.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Yeast strains, plasmids, and growth conditions

Saccharomyces cerevisiae strains and plasmids are listed in Table S5. Unless otherwise stated, yeast strains were grown to mid log phase in SD medium (0.17% yeast nitrogen base, 0.5% ammonium sulfate and 2% glucose). SD medium lacking ammonium sulfate and amino acids was used to starve cells. For Atg protein purifications, we grew cells in medium containing 2% raffinose to OD600 of 0.5. Galactose was then added to a final concentration of 2% to induce the expression of proteins during 6 h, followed by rapamycin treatment (200 ng/mL) for 30 min. Cells were collected, lysed in buffer containing 100 mM TRIS pH7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 1% NP40 and 1x proteases inhibitors (Roche), and either purified with GSH or Ni-NTA beads (GE) as in Zhu et al. (2000).

Sample preparation of in vivo SILAC experiments

The yeast strains were grown in synthetic dextrose complete medium containing either non-labeled or labeled lysine and arginine variants: “Heavy” L-arginine-13C6-15N4 (Arg10) and L-lysine-13C6-15N2 (Lys8), or “medium-heavy” L-arginine-13C6 (Arg6) and L-lysine-2H4 (Lys4) amino acids (Sigma-Aldrich) were used as labels. In total, ten SILAC experiments were performed using the following label scheme:

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Cells were treated or not with 200 ng/mL rapamycin for 30 min. Dried TCA-treated cell pellets (50 mg) of each labeling were mixed. Cells were broken by glass beads in urea buffer (8 M urea, 50 mM Tris HCl (pH 8)). Debris was pelleted and the supernatant containing cellular proteins was collected. These steps were repeated 5 times to extract proteins. Proteins were reduced by 1 mM DTT, alkylated by 5 mM iodoacetamide and digested by Lys-C (Lysyl Endopeptidase, WAKO) for 4 h. The concentration of urea was diluted to 1 M before overnight trypsin digestion (Promega).

On the second day, the samples were acidified using 50% TFA (final concentration 0.5%) and centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 10 min to remove precipitations. Peptides were purified by SPE using HR-X columns in combination with C18 cartridges (Macherey-Nagel): Buffer A, 0.1% formic acid in deionized water; Buffer B, 80% acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid in deionized water. Elutes were frozen in liquid nitrogen and lyophilized for overnight.

On the third day, peptides were fractionated by HPLC reversed phase chromatography (Batth et al., 2014). The dry peptide powder was suspended in 400 µL 5% ammonium hydroxide and fractionated using a Waters XBridge BEH130 C18 3.5 µm 4.6 x 250 mm column on a Ultimate 3000 HPLC (Thermo Scientific). Peptides were injected with 0.1 µL/s. The flowrate of the mobile phase was 1 ml/min. HPLC buffer A contained 10 mM ammonium formate in deionized water and buffer B contained 10 mM ammonium formate and 90% acetonitrile deionized water. Both buffers were adjusted to pH 10 with ammonium hydroxide. Peptides were fractionated by increasing acetonitrile concentration from 1% to 40% Buffer B in 25 min. 96 fractions were collected in a 96 deep well plate. Fractions were mixed with an interval of 12 to yield 12 final fractions. The peptides were acidified, frozen in liquid nitrogen and lyophilized for overnight. On the fourth day, the dry peptides were suspended in 200 µL 80% acetonitrile with 1% TFA for further phosphopeptide enrichment (see below).

**METHOD DETAILS**

**Filter-Aided In Vitro Kinase Assay**

For Atg1 assays, HA-tagged WT and kinase dead Atg1 were purified by immunoprecipitation using anti-HA magnetic beads (Thermo Scientific). The beads were directly used for *in vitro* kinase assay. For TORC1 assays (Hatakeyama et al., 2019), to obtain maximal TORC1 activity, 30 µg of purified TORC1 was incubated with 1 mM MnCl2 for 30 min. As a negative control, purified TORC1 was inhibited with 6 µM wortmannin for 30 min. Atg proteins purified from yeast (Gelperin et al., 2005; Zhu et al., 2000) and TORC1 or Atg1 variants were added onto 10 kD MW-cutoff filters (Pall) and incubated for 1 h at 30°C.

**Phosphopeptide Enrichment**

For both *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments, phosphopeptides were enriched by TiO2 beads (GL Sciences), which were incubated with 300 mg/mL lactic acid in 80% acetonitrile, 1% TFA prior experiments (Zarei et al., 2016). Samples were incubated with a 2 mg TiO2 slurry for 30 min at room temperature. For peptide elution, TiO2 beads were transferred to 200 µL pipette tips, which were blocked by C8 discs (3M Empore). Tips were sequentially washed with 10% acetonitrile/1% TFA, 80% acetonitrile/1% TFA, and LC-MS grade water. Phosphopeptides were eluted with 50 µL of 5% ammonia in 20% acetonitrile and 50 µL of 5% ammonia in 80% acetonitrile. Eluates of single fractions were mixed and acidified with 20 µL of 0.1% formic acid. Samples were concentrated by vacuum concentration and resuspended in 20 µL of 0.1% formic acid for LC-MS/MS analysis. The tip flow-through was stored at −80°C for non-phosphopeptide analysis.

**LC-MS/MS Analyses**

LC-MS/MS measurements were performed on a QExactive (QE) Plus and HF-X mass spectrometer coupled to an EasyLC 1000 and EasyLC 1200 nanoflow-HPLC, respectively (all Thermo Scientific). Peptides were fractionated on a fused silica HPLC-column tip (I.D. 75 µm, New Objective, self-packed with ReproSil-Pur 120 C18-AQ, 1.9 µm (Dr. Maisch) to a length of 20 cm) using a gradient of...
A (0.1% formic acid in water) and B (0.1% formic acid in 80% acetonitrile in water); samples were loaded with 0% B with a flow rate of 600 nL/min; peptides were separated by 5%–30% B within 85 min with a flow rate of 250 nL/min. Spray voltage was set to 2.3 kV and the ion-transfer tube temperature to 250 °C, no sheath and auxiliary gas were used. Mass spectrometers were operated in the data-dependent mode; after each MS scan (mass range m/z = 370 – 1750; resolution: 70'000 for QE Plus and 120'000 for HF-X) a maximum of ten, or twelve MS/MS scans were performed using a normalized collision energy of 25%, a target value of 1'000 (QE Plus)/5'000 (HF-X) and a resolution of 17'500 for QE Plus and 30'000 for HF-X. MS raw files were analyzed using MaxQuant (version 1.6.2.10) (Cox and Mann, 2008) using a Uniprot full-length S. cerevisiae database (March, 2016) and common contaminants such as keratins and enzymes used for in-gel digestion as reference. Carbamidomethylcysteine was set as fixed modification and protein amino-terminal acetylation, serine-, threonine- and tyrosine- (heavy) phosphorylation, and oxidation of methionine were set as variable modifications. The MS/MS tolerance was set to 20 ppm and three missed cleavages were allowed using trypsin/P as enzyme specificity. Peptide, site, and protein FDR based on a forward-reverse database were set to 0.01, minimum peptide length was set to 7, the minimum score for modified peptides was 40, and minimum number of peptides for identification of proteins was set to one, which must be unique. The “match-between-run” option was used with a time window of 0.7 min. MaxQuant results were analyzed using Perseus (Tyanova et al., 2016).

**ALP assays for the determination of autophagic flux and immunoblot analysis**

Autophagy was induced by shifting the cells for 3 h to nitrogen starvation medium according to Noda et al. (1995). Autophagic flux was determined according to Klionsky et al. (2016). For immunoblot analyses, cell lysates were prepared as previously described (Hatakeyama et al., 2019) and subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting experiments using the indicated antibodies. Anti-Atg13-pSer554 antibodies were generated by GenScript. Yeast cells expressing plasmid-encoded Atg13-2HA were collected and resuspended in lysis buffer (5 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, protease inhibitor cocktail [Roche], Pefabloc [Sigma-Aldrich] and PhosSTOP [Roche] in phosphate-buffered saline), and disrupted with glass beads using a Precellys homogenizer. Atg13-2HA was purified using Perseus (Tyanova et al., 2016).

**QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

We combined the measurement of the log2 fold change on each site and for the 15 replicates into a random effect model. Specifically, we considered a priori the sites as a random effect and we included the variability among replicates by also considering the replicates as a random effect. The model reads as

\[ y_{ij} = a + s_i + r_j + e_{ij} \]

where \( y_{ij} \) is the log2 fold change at the site \( i \) and for the replicate \( j \). The variable \( s_i \) represents the log2 fold change a site \( i \), for which the potential variability among the replicates, the term \( r_j \), has been taken into account. The model assumes a common intercept \( a \) and residuals \( e_{ij} \). The model has been fitted to the data using the function `lmer` of the library `lme4` (Bates et al., 2015) in the statistical software R (R Team, 2019).

Then, a posterior, we extracted the average effect size in log2 fold change and its standard error effect size for each site. This is done by the function `ranef` of the library `lme4`. From these posterior values, each site is assigned an average effect size and its corresponding 95% confidence interval:

\[ \text{average effect size} \pm qt(0.975, \text{d.f. = number of replicates at a given site}) \times \text{standard error}. \]

The value \( qt \) represents the 0.975 quantile of the Student distribution for a degree of freedom of \( \text{d.f.} \), so that the exact number of replicates available for a given site is taken into account into the computation of the confidence interval. If the confidence interval includes values of zeros, then there is no statistically significant log2 fold change, whereas if the confidence interval is above (below) zeros, then there is statistical evidence for upregulation (downregulation) (see Figure 2A).

GO-term analyses were performed with Cytoscape 3.7.1 (Shannon et al., 2003) and ClueGO 2.5.3. (Bindea et al., 2009). Ontology enrichment (background: genome) was calculated using those genes, whose proteins carried phosphosites that were min. 2-fold regulated, either positive or negative. GO-biological process (BP), -cellular component (CC) and KEGG were selected for calculations. GO term fusion was used. Only pathways with a p value \( \leq 0.05 \) were determined as significant (Bonferroni corrected). GO tree interval was set between 4 and 8. GO clusters contained at least 5 genes or 10% of all input genes. Enrichment/depletion (two-sided hypergeometric test) and Bonferroni p value correction were selected for statistical analyses. Sequence logos and motif analyses were performed using the service of the PhosphoSitePlus® website. The background for both calculations was based on the respective input sequences. Motifs with a p value \( \leq 0.001 \) and a support threshold \( \geq 0.05 \) were selected. To identify the maximum number of identifiable phosphosites we fitted the cumulative sum of
newly identified phosphosites per experiment with a least square optimization using Excel. Homolog sequences alignments were performed with Clustal Omega, a web tool of EMBL-EBI, using default settings (Madeira et al., 2019). Proteins homologs were extracted from UniProt.

DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository with the dataset identifier PRIDE Archive: PXD013271 (Perez-Riverol et al., 2019).