Bipolar Plasma Membrane Distribution of Phosphoinositides and Their Requirement for Auxin-Mediated Cell Polarity and Patterning in Arabidopsis

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Cell polarity manifested by asymmetric distribution of cargoes, such as receptors and transporters, within the plasma membrane (PM) is crucial for essential functions in multicellular organisms. In plants, cell polarity (re)establishment is intimately linked to patterning processes. Despite the importance of cell polarity, its underlying mechanisms are still largely unknown, including the definition and distinctiveness of the polar domains within the PM. Here, we show in Arabidopsis thaliana that the signaling membrane components, the phosphoinositides phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate (PtdIns4P) and phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate [PtdIns(4,5)P2] as well as PtdIns4P 5-kinases mediating their interconversion, are specifically enriched at apical and basal polar plasma membrane domains. The PtdIns4P 5-kinases PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 are redundantly required for polar localization of specifically apical and basal cargos, such as PIN-FORMED transporters for the plant hormone auxin. As a consequence of the polarity defects, instructive auxin gradients as well as embryonic and postembryonic patterning are severely compromised. Furthermore, auxin itself regulates PIP5K transcription and PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 levels, in particular their association with polar PM domains. Our results provide insight into the polar domain-delineating mechanisms in plant cells that depend on apical and basal distribution of membrane lipids and are essential for embryonic and postembryonic patterning.

INTRODUCTION

Multicellular organisms rely on their capacity to break cellular symmetry and generate new axes of polarity to build their complex structures. Cell polarity, understood as the existence of two opposite structural or functional poles, is the initial characteristic necessary for an organism to generate asymmetries at a large scale (Li and Bowerman, 2010). The molecules and factors that determine and maintain cell polarity are well characterized in mammalian cells, including the interplay among the so-called “polarity complexes,” which are also partially conserved in yeast (Assémat et al., 2008; Thompson, 2013). In plants, cell polarity is considered to be crucial during both embryonic and postembryonic development and during responses to the environment (Dettmer and Friml, 2011). However, the general notion of polarity complexes is absent, and thus the mechanisms found in other eukaryotes cannot be directly extrapolated to plants (Geldner, 2009).

One of the manifestations of cell polarity is the asymmetric distribution of proteins and lipids at the plasma membrane (PM). Plant cells have reached a complex structural asymmetry by the generation of four different PM polar domains in a single cell type, such as the root epidermis (Dettmer and Friml, 2011). The best studied polar cargoes in plants are the PIN-FORMED (PIN) transporters, which are essential for directional movement of the hormone auxin and its patterning signal; hence, their polar localization is a fundamental feature of their function (Petrášek et al., 2006; Wsiewniowska et al., 2006). Initial insights into the processes and factors determining PIN polarity have highlighted the role of clathrin-mediated endocytosis (Kitakura et al., 2011) and constitutive recycling and trafficking for PIN polarity maintenance (Kleine-Vehn et al., 2011; Tanaka et al., 2013) and the involvement of PIN phosphorylation in their sorting to apical versus basal polar domains (Friml et al., 2004; Michniewicz et al., 2007). Additionally, auxin itself has been shown to regulate the capacity of its own transport through the inhibition of clathrin-mediated endocytosis and PIN internalization (Paciorek et al., 2005; Robert et al., 2010), to regulate PIN protein vacuolar trafficking (Abas et al., 2006; Baster et al., 2013), and to dynamically change PIN polarity in different developmental contexts (Benková...
et al., 2003; Heisler et al., 2005; Sauer et al., 2006a; Scarpella et al., 2006; Ikeda et al., 2009; Balla et al., 2011). To date, it is not entirely clear how auxin modulates PIN polarity: while the underlying mechanism requires at least to some extent nuclear TRANSFER INHIBITOR RESPONSE1 (TIR1), auxin/indole-3-acetic acid (Aux/IAA), and auxin response factor (ARF)-mediated auxin-dependent transcription (Chapman and Estelle, 2009), the mechanism does not involve any known regulator of PIN trafficking and polarity (Sauer et al., 2006a). Thus, which processes downstream of auxin signaling mediate dynamic cell polarity changes and how they are integrated with known trafficking and polarity mechanisms are still unknown, along with many other components that organize the polarity machinery in plant cells.

Phosphoinositides (PIs), the phosphorylated derivatives of the membrane phospholipid phosphatidylinositol, are functionally important lipid constituents of all cellular membranes. PIs function as scaffolding signals to recruit protein effectors to different intracellular compartments as well as signaling molecules involved in numerous cellular processes (Di Paolo and De Camilli, 2006; Ischebeck et al., 2010; Munnik and Nielsen, 2011). In animal systems, polarized cell types use PI asymmetry at their PM as a way to establish and maintain their cellular and tissue polar constitution (Gassama-Diagne et al., 2006; Martin-Belmonte et al., 2007), highlighting a critical function of PI compartmentalization in generating spatial cues important for polarity generation. In plants, there is extensive evidence for the role of PIs and PI-derived signaling in polar tip growth. In particular, phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate (PtdIns4P) and phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PtdIns(4,5)P2) seem to be key metabolites, since they localize specifically to a tip-focused PM domain of growing root hairs (Braun et al., 1998; van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Stenzel et al., 2008; Thole et al., 2008; Vermeer et al., 2009) and pollen tubes (Kost et al., 1999; Dowd et al., 2006; Helling et al., 2006; Ischebeck et al., 2006), expanding cell plates during cytokinesis (van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Vermeer et al., 2009), and are required for the proper development of these highly polarized structures. The conversion of PtdIns4P into PtdIns(4,5)P2 is catalyzed by phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinases (PI4P 5-kinases) (Mueller-Roeber and Pical, 2002). PtdIns(4,5)P2 as well as the PI-derived second messengers phosphatidic acid (PtdOH) and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate were shown to modulate the trafficking or polarity of PIN proteins (Li and Xue, 2007; Zhang et al., 2011; Mei et al., 2012; Ischebeck and Werner et al., 2013), pointing to a pivotal role of PIs in cell polarity and auxin transport-dependent development.

Here, we show that the main two ubiquitously expressed PI4P 5-kinases, PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 (Stenzel et al., 2008), their substrate PtdIns4P, and their product PtdIns(4,5)P2 are all specifically enriched at apical and basal PM domains in root cells. PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 are redundantly required for PIN polarity, auxin distribution, and embryonic as well as postembryonic tissue patterning. In addition, auxin regulates the transcription of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 and modulates PtdIns(4,5)P2 levels, including PI contents at the PM. Our results suggest a role for PIs in defining polar domains and polarity in plant cells and identify an auxin regulatory input into this mechanism.

RESULTS

PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 Have Bipolar Localization in Arabidopsis thaliana Root Cells

To gain insight into the localization of the two important PIs, PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2, we used two genetically encoded fluorescent reporters that are based on the specific binding of two distinct pleckstrin homology (PH) domains from mammalian proteins: the PH domain of the phospholipase C α1 (YFP-PH<sub>PLCα1</sub>) that specifically binds PtdIns(4,5)P2 (van Leeuwen et al., 2007) and the PH domain of the human protein FAPP1 (YFP-PH<sub>FAPP1</sub>) that specifically binds PtdIns4P (Vermeer et al., 2009). We analyzed Arabidopsis plants expressing both markers under the control of two different constitutive promoters showing different expression levels: the strong cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter (van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Vermeer et al., 2009) (Figures 1A and 1C; Supplemental Figure 1) and the Arabidopsis UBIQUITIN10 (UBQ10) promoter (Figures 1B and 1D; Supplemental Figure 2). Using these different reporter lines, we consistently detected an enrichment of fluorescence signals to the apical and basal sides of root epidermal cells (Figures 1A and 1B; Supplemental Figures 1 and 2), cortex, and procambial cells (Supplemental Figure 2). Importantly, the bipolar localization patterns manifested in cells expressing only low levels of the reporters, as indicated by low fluorescence intensities (Figures 1B and 1D), in which perturbation of cellular function by the reporter expression was minimal. By using antibodies raised against liposomes enriched in PtdIns4P or PtdIns(4,5)P2, we also detected weak signals distributed in a bipolar pattern enhanced at the apical and basal cell sides (Supplemental Figure 3). The antibodies used might also cross-react in vitro with other lipids, such as phosphatidylinositol 3,4-bisphosphate or phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate, but from our current understanding these PI isomers are not produced in plant cells (Heilmann, 2009; Munnik and Testerink, 2009; Munnik and Nielsen, 2011). Thus, visualization of PIs with established markers, supported by immunolocalization, suggests enrichment of PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 at apical and basal PM domains.

PIPK1 and PIP5K2 Have Bipolar Localization throughout Plant Development

As PIs can be enriched at certain membranes by the local metabolism of kinases, phosphatases, and phospholipases, we tested the cellular distribution of the PI4P 5-kinases that phosphorylate PtdIns4P to PtdIns(4,5)P2. In plants, the function of PI4P 5-kinases is required for various trafficking-dependent processes, among others for polar tip growth (Ischebeck et al., 2008, 2011; Kusano et al., 2008; Sousa et al., 2008; Stenzel et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2010) and PIN-mediated root gravitropism (Mei et al., 2012; Ischebeck and Werner et al., 2013). The Arabidopsis genome contains genes for 11 isoforms of PI4P 5-kinases, of which PIPSK4 to PIP5K6, PIP5K10, and PIP5K11 are pollen expressed (Ischebeck et al., 2008, 2011; Sousa et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2010) and PIP5K3 is exclusively expressed in trichoblast and root hairs (Kusano et al., 2008; Stenzel et al., 2008) PIP5K9 is ubiquitously expressed, localizes to the nucleus and PM, and is involved in the regulation of sugar-mediated root growth (Lou et al., 2007). PIP5K1 and PIP5K2...
were chosen for our study because the isoforms they encode have been shown to be the most active among the ubiquitously expressed PI4P 5-kinases (Stenzel et al., 2008) and likely make a major contribution to cellular PtdIns(4,5)P2 formation. Furthermore, PIP5K2 regulates lateral root density and PIN trafficking upon gravistimulation by modulating PIN cycling (Mei et al., 2012), making PIP5K2 a likely candidate for locally producing PtdIns(4,5)P2 in root cells. Because PIP5K2 and PIP5K1 form a closely related homologous gene pair (Mueller-Roeber and Pical, 2002; Stenzel et al., 2012) and partially overlap in expression throughout the plant (Supplemental Figure 4), these isoforms were targeted for further characterization.

To visualize the subcellular localization of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2, functional translational fusions with yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) were generated (Ischebeck and Werner, 2013; Supplemental Figure 5). The expression patterns of the fusion proteins in the root apical meristem expressed under the control of their respective native promoters resembled those found using the transcriptional reporters (compare Figures 2A and 2B with Supplemental Figure 4) and those reported previously (Elge et al., 2001; Mei et al., 2012; Ischebeck and Werner, 2013). YFP-PIP5K1 and YFP-PIP5K2 localized in the cytosol and prominently in nuclei and at the PM (Figures 2A and 2B). The nuclear localization hints at a possible function of PI4P 5-kinases during Arabidopsis development, possibly modulating DNA biosynthesis, transcription, or cell cycle control, as has been found for animal cells (Dieck et al., 2012). Importantly, YFP-PIP5K1 and YFP-PIP5K2 were found to be apical–basal localized in the PM of root procambial and epidermal cells, respectively (Figures 2A and 2B). Similar localization patterns were found for YFP-PIP5K1 in all cell types in the root apical meristem when expressed under the control of a weak constitutive promoter (−2000 bp upstream of the ATG codon of DNAJc17) (Figure 2C). The bipolar localization of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 was further supported by their colocalization with known apical and basal cargoes such as PIN1 and PIN2 in stele and epidermis, respectively (Supplemental Figure 6). Quantification of the fluorescent signal, by evaluating the apical–basal versus lateral fluorescence ratio (polarity index), confirmed the enrichment in polar apical and basal PM domains for PtdIns4P, PtdIns(4,5)P2, and the two PI4P 5-kinases in different cell types (Figure 3; Supplemental Figure 7).

We also tested the localization of PIP5K1 in other developmental contexts, as suggested by their expression patterns (Supplemental Figure 4), using YFP-PIP5K1 expression controlled by the promoter of DNAJc17 to overcome the weak expression...
levels of the constructs under the control of the native promoter. PIP5K1 localized polarly at the PM in the embryo (Figure 2D) and during lateral root primordium development (Figure 2E), where nuclear localization was also observed (Figure 2E). Together, these results reveal that the apical and basal PM of different root cell types is enriched in PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 compared with the lateral PM of the same cells. This PI enrichment coincides with the localization of the PI4P 5-kinases, PIP5K1 and PIP5K2, suggesting that these enzymes are important for the specification of PI-enriched apical and basal polar domains.

Mutants Lacking PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 Have Defects in Auxin Distribution and Auxin-Dependent Development

To gain insight into the function of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2, we isolated representative knockout mutants in both genes (Supplemental

Figure 2. PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 Expression and Subcellular Localization.

(A) and (B) PIP5K1 (A) and PIP5K2 (B) expression under the control of their respective native promoters imaged in 4-d-old root tip seedlings using confocal microscopy. YFP-PIP5K1 is predominantly expressed in procambial cells and YFP-PIP5K2 in epidermal cells. Both PIP5Ks are localized to apical–basal PM (arrowheads), apart from a strong nuclear localization (asterisks).

(C) Live imaging of 4-d-old seedlings using confocal microscopy of YFP-PIP5K1 in the apical root meristem expressed under the control of the weak constitutive promoter of Arabidopsis DNAJC17 (AT5G23590). YFP-PIP5K1 is asymmetrically localized to the apical and basal cell sides of procambial (proc; middle panel) and epidermal (epi; right panel) cells.

(D) and (E) Asymmetrical localization of YFP-PIP5K1 in heart embryo cells (D) and at different developmental stages of lateral root primordia in 10-d-old seedlings (E). Lateral root primordia stages indicated in the top right corners are as described by Malamy and Benfey (1997). Arrowheads highlight polar localization, and asterisks indicate nuclear localization. Bars = 20 μm.
root pole, in the uppermost suspensor cell and in the hypophysis, and, later on, in the incipient cotyledons and proliferative strands (Figure 4C; Benková et al., 2003; Friml et al., 2003). By contrast, mutant pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− embryos displayed only weak DR5:GFP (for green fluorescent protein) activity throughout embryogenesis and often failed to establish localized auxin maxima (Figure 4D). In a proportion of pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− mutant embryos (16%, n = 30), ectopic DR5 maxima were seen in patches in the protodermal layer (Figure 4D), with overall high signal in the whole suspensor (6.6%, n = 30; Figure 4D).

Because no aberrant embryos could be found at later stages, development seemed arrested prior to the globular stage in the strongly affected embryos. Nevertheless, 5% (n = 230) of the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutant embryos escaped lethality and established seedlings with defective cotyledons (Supplemental Figures 8F to 8I). Double mutant cotyledons also showed severe defects in vascular development, manifesting in disjointed vascular strands and the formation of so-called vascular islands, completely disconnected vascular fragments (Figure 4E). Similar vascular defects were also observed in primary leaves of 7-d-old and adult pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− plants (Supplemental Table 2 and Supplemental Figures 8J and 8K). Postembryonically, most of the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutants displayed dramatically reduced dimensions of the root apical meristem (Figure 4F) and showed decreased DR5::GUS (for β-glucuronidase) activity in the root tips (Figure 4G), although the overall DR5 signal distribution pattern looked normal. In summary, this reverse genetic analysis revealed that PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 are essential for asymmetric auxin distribution as well as for embryonic apical–basal patterning, aerial and root-derived organogenesis, leaf venation, and root meristem activity and growth, processes that all depend on asymmetric auxin distribution (Vanneste and Friml, 2009) and typically involve coordinated cell polarization events (Dettmer and Friml, 2011).

Mutants Lacking PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 Have Defects in PIN Polarity

To test whether PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 are required for the distribution of apical and basal polar cargoes, we examined the polar distribution of PINs in different developmental contexts in wild-type controls and pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutants. During wild-type embryogenesis, PIN1 localization was apical in the protodermal layer, gradually pointing toward the incipient cotyledons, whereas it was basal in the provascular tissues, directing the auxin fluxes toward the forming root pole (Figure 5A), and these patterns are consistent with previous reports (Friml et al., 2003). By contrast, in pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− embryos, these polar distribution patterns were severely compromised: PIN1 displayed apolar or uncoordinated, random polar distribution (Figure 5A). Moreover, in the wild type, the PIN1 expression was restricted to the apical cell lineage (proembryo), whereas in pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− embryos, it occurred also in suspensor cells (Figure 5B), confirming an apical–basal specification defect. Postembryonically, in wild-type root meristems, PIN2 localizes apically (shootward) in epidermis cells and displays a basal (rootward) localization in young cortex cells, which gradually shifts to apical when cortex cells start to elongate and differentiate (Kleine-Vehn et al., 2008). Here, in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− seedlings with a shorter root apical meristem, we observed an abnormally strong
lateral signal of PIN2 in cortex cells (Figure 5C), suggesting defects in PIN polarization. This mislocalization was also observed in the otherwise normally patterned root meristems of pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− seedlings that were phenotypically less affected. During post-embryonic development, the dynamic PIN1 polarization was examined during vascular venation patterning that highly depends on PIN-driven polar auxin transport (Berleth and Mattsson, 2000). In newly forming vascular strands of the wild type, the polar localization of PIN1 is dynamically established toward the base of previously formed vascular strands (Figure 5D; Scarpella et al., 2006). In contrast with this pattern, in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− mutants, coordinated PIN1 polarization did not occur and most of the vascular strands failed to connect (Figure 5D; Supplemental Table 2). This failure is reflected in the formation of vascular islands (Figure 4E) lacking polarized PIN1 distribution (Figure 5D, inset in the left panel). These observations show that bipolar PI4P 5-kinase activity is
required for dynamic PIN polarization during different processes in embryonic and postembryonic development. Apparently, PI4P 5-kinases and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ preferentially influence apically-basally localized proteins, because the laterally localized proteins ATP BINDING CASSETTE G37/POLAR AUXIN TRANSPORT INHIBITOR SENSITIVE1, PENETRATION RESISTANCE3 (PEN3), and G-PROTEIN BETAl (AGB1) and the nonpolar PM H⁺-ATPase were not affected in the double mutant background (Supplemental Figure 9).

**Auxin Modulates Cellular Content and Subcellular Distribution of PIs**

The previous results demonstrate the crucial requirement for PIP5K activity in various developmental processes, including those that typically depend on polar localization and dynamic repolarization of PIN proteins, such as embryogenesis (Friml et al., 2003), lateral root and cotyledon organogenesis (Okada et al., 1991; Scarpella et al., 2006), and self-organizing processes of vascular tissue formation (Scarpella et al., 2006). In the canalization hypothesis, auxin is proposed to be the signal that links cell polarity to tissue polarity through a positive effect on its own directional transport (Sachs, 1991). Auxin induces a PIN polarity change in Arabidopsis roots manifested by basal-to-lateral repolarization of PIN1 and PIN2 (Sauer et al., 2006a). This effect of auxin is mediated through transcriptional regulation via the TIR1, Aux/IAA, and ARF mechanism and does not involve any known PIN polarity or trafficking regulators. As auxin was shown to regulate the transcript abundance of PIP5K2 (Mei et al., 2012), we assessed whether auxin might regulate PIP5K1 transcription and hence influence PIN polarity through the regulation of PI metabolism. We used the promoter fragments fused to the nucleus-localized GUS-GFP reporter gene to visualize the transcriptional response in situ after IAA treatment. We observed that both pPIp5K1::nlsGUS-GFP and pPIp5K2::nlsGUS-GFP were induced after 1 h of auxin treatment and remained induced over the 4-h time frame of the experiment (Figures 6A and 6B). Interestingly, pPIp5K2::nlsGUS-GFP responded by increasing its activity in epidermis and vascular tissues in the root differentiation zone (Figure 6B), suggesting that it may also be involved in differentiation processes in response to auxin. Moreover, our data indicate that PIP5K1 transcript accumulated within 30 min of auxin treatment and stayed elevated for several hours, after which transcript levels decreased in a pattern similar to

![Image](https://example.com/image.png)

**Figure 5. pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ Mutants Have PIN Polarity Defects.**

(A) and (B) Immunolocalization of PIN1 in wild-type and pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ mutant embryos. In contrast with the mainly apical polarity of PIN1 in epidermal cells and the basal polarity in procambial cells of wild-type embryos (A, top panels), the pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ embryos displayed more diffuse PIN1 polarizations (A, bottom panels) and ectopic PIN1 expression in the upper suspensor cells (B, arrowhead in right panel). Asterisks indicate the hypophysis, and arrowheads highlight PIN polarity. Bars = 20 μm.

(C) PIN immunolocalization in wild-type and pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ 7-d-old seedling root tips. In the wild type, PIN1 in endodermis (en) and PIN2 in cortex (co) and epidermis (epi) cells show clear basal and apical localizations, respectively. By contrast, in pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ root tips, PIN2 accumulates abnormally at the inner and outer lateral sides of cortex cells (arrowheads). Bars = 50 μm.

(D) Immunolocalization of PIN1 in wild-type (left) and pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ (right) primary leaves of 9-d-old seedlings. In the wild type, PIN1 is clearly polarized in the developing vascular tissue pointing toward the leaf base. Newly forming, not yet connected, provascular cells show PIN1 polarization toward older vascular strands (inset). In the pip5k1⁻/⁻ pip5k2⁻/⁻ mutant, PIN1 localization toward the older vascular strands is lost in young, developing vascular tissues (inset). Arrowheads indicate PIN polarity, and asterisks highlight the existing/older vascular strands. Bars = 50 μm.
that of the well-characterized early auxin-inducible genes SHORT HYPOCOTYL2 (SHY2)/IAA3 and BODENLOS (BDL)/IAA12 (Figure 6C). Because auxin-induced PIN repolarization depends on the activity of the transcription factors ARF7 and ARF19 (Sauer et al., 2006a), we analyzed PIP5K1 auxin inducibility in arf7 arf19 double mutants. In the arf7 arf19 double mutants, the induction of PIP5K1 expression by auxin was largely lost (Figure 6D). Both the naturally occurring auxin IAA (Figures 6C and 6D) and its synthetic analog 1-naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) (10 μM for 4 h; data not shown) were effective in inducing PIP5K transcript accumulation. Overall, the data show that PIP5K1 is an early auxin-inducible gene, functioning downstream of the auxin signaling pathway known to be required for auxin-dependent PIN polarity rearrangement.

Next, we analyzed whether auxin affected PI levels and/or their subcellular distribution. In wild-type seedlings, exogenous application of 10 μM NAA triggered an –25% increase in the total level of 32P-labeled PtdIns(4,5)P2 and a modest (~5%) decrease in the amount of 32P-labeled phosphatidylinositol phosphate (Supplemental Figure 10), substantially reducing the phosphatidylinositol phosphate: PtdIns(4,5)P2 ratio (~28% reduction) (Figure 7A). This response was lower or lost in the pip5k1−/− and pip5k2−/− single mutants (Figure 7A; Supplemental Figures 10A and 10B). In the pip5k2−/− mutant and partly also in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutant, the basal levels of 32P-labeled PtdIns(4,5)P2 increased slightly (Supplemental Figure 10B), which might hint at the upregulated activity of a functionally redundant PI4P 5-kinase isofrom. In line with these observations, treatment with IAA (0.1 or 10 μM) for 1 h also caused increases in PtdIns(4,5)P2 levels (Supplemental Figure 10C), showing that both NAA and IAA have comparable effects on lipid composition. Moreover, we examined the effect of auxin on PIs residing at the PM using the lipid biosensors (Figures 1A and 1C). The PtdIns(4,5)P2 and PtdIns4P reporters showed distinct changes after 2 h of treatment with 10 μM NAA. Importantly, the YFP-PH_{PLC}d signal at the PM was significantly increased with the NAA treatment, whereas YFP-PHFAPP1 fluorescence was concomitantly reduced (Figure 7B), suggesting that auxin treatment resulted in a decrease in PtdIns4P (a PIP5K substrate) and an increase in PtdIns(4,5)P2 (a PIP5K product) at the relevant polar domains of the PM. The combined results show that auxin can regulate the global levels of PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 at the PM.

Figure 6. Auxin Modulates PIP5K Expression and Transcript Accumulation. (A) and (B) Four-day-old seedlings expressing the transcriptional reporters pPIP5K1:nlsGUS-GFP (A) and pPIP5K2:nlsGUS-GFP (B) were treated in liquid Arabidopsis medium containing 10 μM IAA for the times indicated in the bottom left corners and imaged immediately using confocal microscopy. Both transcriptional reporters were induced within 1 h of auxin treatment and maintained their induction over the period of 4 h studied. The pPIP5K2:nlsGUS-GFP marker was induced in the epidermal cell file (arrowheads in [B]) and all over the differentiation zone after 2 h of auxin treatment (asterisks in [B]). The fluorescence intensity is indicated as a gradient of color from low (black/dark blue) to high (yellow) fluorescence. (C) and (D) Time-course experiment using 10 μM IAA for the times indicated in (C) and for 4 h in (D). RNA extracted from a 1-mm distal section of the root tips of 4-d-old seedlings was used. Means ± se are presented for three independent experiments. PIP5K1 transcript accumulation after 0.5 h of IAA treatment, and these levels were maintained over the time course of the experiment; this pattern of transcript accumulation is similar to that observed for the early auxin-inducible genes BDL and IAA3 (C). The PIP5K1 transcript accumulation after auxin treatment was abolished in arf7 arf19 double mutants (D).
DISCUSSION

Plants use PI asymmetry at the PM as a way to establish and maintain the polar constitution of tip-growing cells. We show that PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ together with PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 mark the apical–basal polar domain in the root epidermis, embryos, and lateral root primordia. The PI4P 5-kinase activity is necessary for correct localization of the apical and basal polar cargoes PIN1 and PIN2 and for their dynamic repolarization during different developmental processes, including embryogenesis and vascular tissue formation. We also show that auxin is able to modulate PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ abundance at the PM, most likely through transcriptional modulation of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 (Mei et al., 2012), providing a transcriptional component of the auxin feedback mechanism on PIN polarity.

PI and PI4P 5-Kinase Localization as a Module for Cell and Tissue Polarity

Advanced imaging revealed that the PI biosensors YFP-PH$_{APP1}$ and PH-PH$_{PLC1}$ are localized at the PM in root cells in a bipolar fashion, enriched at both the apical and basal cell sides of root cells (Figure 1; Supplemental Figures 1 and 2). To best support this claim, we analyzed the biosensor lines published before (van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Vermeer et al., 2009; Simon et al., 2014) as well as a new set of markers that we generated using a different constitutive promoter (pUBQ10). Overall, our analysis included multiple lines with different expression levels, and in both set of markers we consistently observed the bipolar enrichment of PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ sensors in epidermal cells of the root apical meristem (Figures 1 and 3). Moreover, we have confirmed the bipolar localization by immunolocalization using antibodies against PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ (Supplemental Figure 3). In addition, the PI4P 5-kinases PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 were also bipolarily localized at the PM in root apical meristem cells and displayed pronounced bipolar localization throughout lateral root primordium development and in embryos (Figure 2). The bipolar PI localization is consistent with the localization of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 in root cells, so even though we were not able to clearly observe the PI distribution in every cell type of the plant due to technical limitations, it appears reasonable to assume that PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ distribution will follow the localization of the PI4P 5-kinases, as these enzymes are the only known source of PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ in plants (Mueller-Roeber and Pical, 2002). In line with this observation, recent evidence from studies on tip-growing plant cells suggests that PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ does not freely diffuse from its site of production but instead is channeled toward specific downstream effectors by processes depending on the interaction of PI4P 5-kinases with these targets (Stenzel et al., 2012; Heilmann and Heilmann, 2013). The channeling hypothesis is consistent with the notion that PtdIns(4,5)P$_2$ will colocalize with PI4P 5-kinases, as has been observed previously in tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum) pollen tubes (Ischebeck et al., 2008, 2011) and Arabidopsis root hairs (van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Thole et al., 2008; Vermeer et al., 2009). Therefore, the bipolar PI and PI4P 5-kinase localization in the root apical meristem suggests that PI compartmentalization occurs in cells within a multicellular tissue context in a similar way to that in tip-growing cells (Kost et al., 1999; Ischebeck et al., 2008, 2011; Sousa et al., 2008; Munnik and Nielsen, 2011). This implies the existence of a so-far unappreciated lipid signaling module important for cell polarity in the establishment of various multicellular plant tissues.

PIs and Auxin Signaling in Plant Development

Previous reports had highlighted the importance of PIs in auxin-mediated development (Xue et al., 2007). Several of the phenotypes described here for the pip5k1−/−pip5k2−/− double mutants resemble those found for mutants deficient in auxin biosynthesis, auxin transport, and auxin signaling (Friml et al., 2003; Bilou et al., 2005; Scarpella et al., 2006; Weijers et al., 2006; Stepanova et al., 2008; Won et al., 2011; Robert et al., 2013), suggesting that there is a link between PI4P 5-kinase activity and auxin. The relevant phenotypes include early and late defects in embryogenesis, disconnected vascular tissues, reduced root apical meristem size, root length and lateral root density, and defects in seedling development (Figure 4; Supplemental Figure 8). In addition, we observed reduced or defective local auxin responses in embryos and roots. Generally, the embryos were more affected in both auxin response and patterning compared with the roots, indicating...
a higher degree of functional redundancy in the PI4P 5-kinase family during postembryonic development.

The pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− mutant phenotypes and aberrant spatial patterns of auxin responses indicate a defect in auxin transport and/or signaling as a major underlying cause of the developmental defects. However, other cellular processes may also contribute to those phenotypes, since PIs can interfere with the activity of various other PM proteins. For instance, the type 2C protein phosphatases POLTERGEIST (POL) and POL-like (PLL) are PM localized, and their activity is modulated by the direct binding of phosphatidylinositol monophosphates, such as PtdIns4P (Gagne and Clark, 2010). POL/PLL redundantly influence meristem activity by regulating WUS/WOX5 expression and stem cell maintenance (Song et al., 2008). Importantly, pol pll double mutants have defects in key asymmetric early divisions during embryogenesis, interfering with auxin gradients and PIN1 expression necessary to establish the root pole and vascular tissues. Although POL/PLL do not seem to interact physically with PtdIns(4,5)P2 (Gagne and Clark, 2010), the activity of PI4P 5-kinases may regulate POL/PLL action by directly modulating the PtdIns4P pool.

PI4P 5-Kinase Activity Is Required for PIN Polarity

Auxin transport and its directionality are dependent on the polar localization of PIN auxin transporters (Petraske et al., 2006; Wisniewska et al., 2006). We observed that PIN polarity is altered in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutant (Figure 5), providing a rationale for the morphological phenotypes and defective auxin-response distribution. Nonetheless, it remains unclear by which mechanism PtdIns(4,5)P2 acts on PIN and cell polarity. PtdIns(4,5)P2 may directly bind an effector that influences PIN polarity or trafficking, or alternatively, PtdIns(4,5)P2 may be involved in the local production of second messengers important for PIN polarity or trafficking.

In previous work on tip-growing plant cells, PI4P 5-kinases and PtdIns(4,5)P2 were implicated in the control of exocytosis (Ischebeck et al., 2008, 2010) as well as clathrin-mediated endocytosis and membrane recycling (Konig et al., 2008; Sousa et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2010; Mei et al., 2012). During cytokinesis of tobacco BY-2 cells, PtdIns(4,5)P2 has been shown to lead the expanding cell plate, while PtdIns4P was localized there from the start (van Leeuwen et al., 2007; Vermeer et al., 2009). Recent reports indicate that PtdIns(4,5)P2 and PI4P 5-kinases may be involved in the regulation of PIN1, PIN2, and PIN3 trafficking during the gravitropic bending response (Mei et al., 2012; Ischebeck and Werner et al., 2013), highlighting the hypothesis of an indirect effect of PIs and PI4P 5-kinases on PIN polarity through the modulation of endosomal trafficking. The observations that auxin can induce the transcription of PIP5K1 and PIP5K2 (Figure 6; Mei et al., 2012) and modulate the global content and PM levels of PtdIns(4,5)P2 (Figure 7) suggest an auxin input into the PtdIns(4,5)P2 cell polarity module, thus contributing to the feedback regulation of auxin transport directionality.

The polarization of PIN proteins depends on endosomal recycling events that are mediated by clathrin-mediated endocytosis. It was recently reported that the PM focal distribution patterns of the clathrin light chain are perturbed in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutant and that this has detrimental effects on the formation of brefeldin A–dependent endosomal bodies labeled by fluorescence-tagged PIN1 and PIN2 (Ischebeck and Werner et al., 2013). These results are highly complementary to our findings and indicate that the defects in auxin-dependent development reported here for the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− double mutant might be related to defects in clathrin-mediated endocytosis and the recycling of PIN proteins.

Another possible link between PIs and the control of cell polarity is via the protein kinase PID (PID). PID is a small molecular players directly involved in PIN polarity determination. PID directly phosphorylates the central hydrophilic loop of the PINs, thereby enhancing PIN trafficking toward the apical cell side (Friml et al., 2004; Michniewicz et al., 2007). The Arabidopsis homolog of the mammalian 3-PHOSPHOINOSITIDE-DEPENDENT PROTEIN KINASE1 (PDK1) is required for the activation of PID (Zegzouti et al., 2006). Importantly, PDK1 is able to bind PtdOH and several PIs, including PtdIns4P and PtdIns(4,5)P2 (Deak et al., 1999; Bögre et al., 2003). Therefore, PIs may work as scaffolding signals to recruit PDK1 and enhance PID activity, thus affecting apical–basal PIN polarization. Alternatively, the hydrolysis of PtdIns4P or PtdIns(4,5)P2 by PI-specific phospholipase C (PLC) may lead to the biosynthesis of diacylglycerol and inositol 4,5-bisphosphate or inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate, which can be phosphorylated further into PtdOH and soluble inositol polyphosphates, which have all been implicated in signaling (reviewed in Munnik and Vermeer, 2010; Munnik, 2014). For example, inositol hexakisphosphate can release intracellular Ca2+ (Lemtiri-Chlieh et al., 2003) and seems to be structurally required for TIR1 function (Tan et al., 2007). Genetic evidence suggests crosstalk of inositol polyphosphate and auxin signaling. For instance, several inositol phosphate 5-phosphatase mutants display altered auxin levels and responses (Carland and Nelson, 2004; Lin et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2009; Robles et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2011). Regardless of the exact mode of action, all these observations point to a regulatory loop involving PM-associated PIs that modulate apical–basal PIN polarity via crosstalk between lipid signaling and the PIN polarizing machinery.

METHODS

Plant Material and Growth Conditions

All Arabidopsis thaliana lines were in the Columbia background, and pip5k1−/− and pip5k2−/− were the insertional mutants SALK_146728 and SALK_012487, respectively, obtained from the ABRC. The T-DNA pip5k mutants were genotyped using the UBA1 primer and the gene-specific primers listed in Supplemental Table 3. The arf7 arf19 double mutant has been described (Okushima et al., 2005). The marker lines DR5:GUS (Ulmasov et al., 1997), DR5rev:GFP (Friml et al., 2003), agPPI2-GFP (Cutter et al., 2000), p35S:YPF-PHFLG1 (van Leeuwen et al., 2007), p35S:YPF-PHFLG1 (Vermeer et al., 2009), and pUBQ10:CITRINE-PHFLG1 (Simon et al., 2014) were obtained from the respective authors and introgressed (when appropriate) into the double pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− mutant by crossing.

Seeds were sterilized overnight by chlorine gas, sown on solid Arabidopsis medium (one-half-strength Murashige and Skoog basal salts, 1% Suc, and 0.8% agar, pH 5.7), and stratified at 4°C for at least 2 d prior to transfer to a growth room with a 16-h-light/8-h-dark illumination regime at 18°C. The seedlings were grown vertically for 4 d unless the assay required the use of pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/−, in which case the seedlings were grown for 7 to 9 d to allow clear discrimination of the double mutant phenotype.
Generation of Constructs for PI and PIP5K Fluorescent Markers

To clone all promoters (DNAJC17 [AT5G23390], PIP5K1, and PIP5K2 promoters), we designed primers to cover from −1 to −2000 bp upstream of the gene’s ATG codon and PCR amplified and recombinated the products using the Gateway BP Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen) into the entry vector pDONR4P4Pr. To generate the GUS-GFP reporter constructs, the promoter-pDONR4P4Pr entry clones were recombined with pEN-L1-NSF-L2 using the Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen).

To generate the YFP-PIP5K constructs, we first subcloned the YFPI-PIP5K fusions by PCR amplification of YFP-PIP5K from pMDC7(YFP-PIP5K) plasmids (Ischebeck and Werner et al., 2013) and recombined them into the entry vector pDONR221 using the Gateway BP Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen). Then we recombined these plasmids with the respective promoter cloned in the entry vector pDONR4P4Pr (described above) and the destination vector pB7m24GW using the Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen).

To generate pUBQ10:YFP-PH_FII, pUBQ10:YFP-PH_FAPP1, the corresponding lipid binding domains PH_FIII, and PH_FAPP, were PCR amplified, cloned into pN5515, and recombined into pNIGEL07 using the CRE/lox system as described previously (Geldner et al., 2008).

Standard cloning methods were used, mostly the Gateway cloning system (Invitrogen) and the iPROOF DNA polymerase (Bio-Rad) for PCR amplifications, following the manufacturers’ instructions. All plasmids were sequenced to confirm the absence of point mutations in the PCR-amplified sequences prior to transformation into Arabidopsis Columbia using the floral dip method (Clough and Bent, 1998). All primers used are listed in Supplemental Table 3.

Immunolocalization, GUS Staining, and Live Cell Imaging

PIN immunolocalizations of primary root, embryo, and leaf vasculature were performed as described (Sauer et al., 2006b). The antibodies were used in the following dilutions: anti-PIN1, 1:1000 (Pacifico et al., 2005); anti-PIN2, 1:1000 (Abas et al., 2006); anti-PIS, 1:600 (Ito and Gray, 2006); anti-PEN3, 1:400 (Munnik and Zarza, 2013). The next day, seedlings were treated with 10 μM NAA for 30 min, after which lipids were extracted, separated by thin layer chromatography, and quantified by orthophosphate imaging (Munnik and Zarza, 2013).

Alternatively, nonradioactive PtdInsP_2 levels were measured by means of their fatty acid content. In that case, 50 to 60 seedlings per sample were transferred to solid medium supplemented with 0.1 or 10 μM IAA. After 1 h, seedlings were harvested and the total fresh weight was determined. PtdInsP_2 was extracted and analyzed as described (König et al., 2008).

The PI changes at the PM upon auxin treatments were determined as follows using the biosensors expressed under the control of the 3SS promoter. Four days after germination, seedlings were incubated for the indicated times in liquid Arabidopsis medium containing 10 μM NAA and immediately imaged using a Zeiss 710 confocal microscope equipped with a 63× water-immersion lens (Zeiss) using identical imaging conditions for all samples. The images were analyzed with the ImageJ software (http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/). The PtdInsP_2 marker showed fairly constant fluorescence intensity in all cells in root epidermis, so the fluorescence was directly compared at the PM between NAA treatments and controls. By contrast, the PtdIns(4,5)P_2 marker showed more variable fluorescence intensity, an intense cytosolic fraction besides the one attached to the PM, so a different approach was used. The cells that strongly expressed the PtdIns(4,5)P_2 marker were selected to allow more reliable quantification, and the PM fluorescence intensity was measured and calculated as the ratio between this PM intensity and the average fluorescence intensity of the adjacent cytoplasm measured by the circumference of a constant arbitrary size of 5 μm in diameter. This ratio allowed normalization of the fluorescence signal to the relative expression level per cell. For both PI markers, the fluorescence intensity was measured at the PM using a three-pixel-wide line covering the whole axial membrane of all root epidermal cells in focus included in a single confocal image. All measured cells were used to calculate the average signal per root and then to obtain the mean of 10 roots per time point. These experiments were done in three biological replicates.

Transcript Level Analysis

Total RNA was extracted with the RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen). For quantitative RT-PCR, poly(t) cDNA was prepared from 1 μg of total RNA with the iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad) and quantified on the LightCycler 480 Roche) with the qPCR LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I Master (Roche). PCR was run on 384-well reaction plates that were heated for 10 min to 95°C, followed by 45 denaturation cycles of 10 s at 95°C, annealing for 15 s at 60°C, and extension for 15 s at 72°C. Targets were quantified with specific primer pairs designed with Beacon Designer 4.0 (Premier Biosoft International). Expression levels were normalized to CAP BINDING PROTEIN20 (CBP20; AT3G44200) and ELONGATION FACTOR4α (eIF4A; AT1G54270), which were constitutively expressed across samples. All PCRs were run in three technical repeats, and the data were processed with
qBase version 1.3.4 (Hellemans et al., 2007). The primers used are listed in Supplemental Table 3.

**Accession Numbers**

Sequence data from this article can be found in the Arabidopsis Genome Initiative or GenBank/EMBL databases under the following accession numbers: ACTIN8, AT1G49240; BDII/IAA12, AT1G04550; CBP20, AT5G44200; DNAJc17, AT5G23590; EIF4A, AT1G54270; SHY2/IAA3, AT1G04240; PIP5K1, At1g21980; PIP5K2, At1g77740; PIN1, At1g35950; and PIN2, At5g57090.

**Supplemental Data**

The following materials are available in the online version of this article.

**Supplemental Figure 1.** 3D Reconstructions of Root Epidermal Cells Imaged by Confocal Microscopy of Seedlings Expressing the Phosphoinositide Biosensors.

**Supplemental Figure 2.** 3D Reconstructions of PIPS Marker Lines and Phosphoinositide Biosensors Imaged by Spinning Disc Microscopy.

**Supplemental Figure 3.** Whole-Mount Immunolocalization on Epidermal Cells on 4-d-Old Seedling Root Tips Using Anti-PtdIns(4,5)P2 and Anti-PtdIns4P Antibodies.

**Supplemental Figure 4.** Expression Patterns of pPIP5K1:GUS and pPIP5K2:GUS in Root Tips, Cotyledon Vasculature, and During Early Embryo Development.

**Supplemental Figure 5.** Functional Complementation of pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− Double Mutants with the pPIP5K1:YFP-PPIP5K1 Construct.

**Supplemental Figure 6.** Root Whole-Mount Immunolocalization on 4-d-Old Seedlings of pPIP5K1:YFP-PPIP5K1 and pPIP5K2:YFP-PPIP5K2 Using Anti-PIN1, Anti-PIN2, and Anti-GFP Antibodies.

**Supplemental Figure 7.** Apical-to-Lateral Fluorescence Ratio (Polarity Index) of Phosphoinositide Biosensors Expressed under the Control of the 3SS Promoter and PIP5K1 Proteins in Root Epidermis and Pro cambial Cells Expressed under the Control of the DNAJc17 Promoter.

**Supplemental Figure 8.** Characterization of pip5k Mutants.

**Supplemental Figure 9.** Apolar and Outer Lateral Localized Proteins Are Not Affected in the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− Double Mutant.

**Supplemental Figure 10.** Phosphoinositide Measurements in Response to Auxin in Wild-Type and pip5k Mutant Seedlings.

**Supplemental Table 1.** Mutant Phenotype Segregation in Seedlings and Embryos in the Wild Type and the pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− Double Mutant.

**Supplemental Table 2.** The pip5k1−/− pip5k2−/− Mutant Frequently Has Disconnected Provascular Fragments as Well as Reduced Complexity in the Vascular Tissues (i.e., Reduced Branching Points, Secondary Veins, and Closed Areoles).

**Supplemental Table 3.** Primer Sequences Used for Expression Analysis and Cloning Procedures.

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**


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