Src kinase activity and SH2 domain regulate the dynamics of Src association with lipid and protein targets

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Src functions depend on its association with the plasma membrane and with specific membrane-associated assemblies. Many aspects of these interactions are unclear. We investigated the functions of kinase, SH2, and SH3 domains in Src membrane interactions. We used FRAP beam-size analysis in live cells expressing a series of c-Src–GFP proteins with targeted mutations in specific domains together with biochemical experiments to determine whether the mutants can generate and bind to phosphotyrosyl proteins. Wild-type Src displays lipid-like membrane association, whereas constitutively active Src-Y527F interacts transiently with slower-diffusing membrane-associated proteins. These interactions require Src kinase activity and SH2 binding, but not SH3 binding. Furthermore, overexpression of paxillin, an Src substrate with a high cytoplasmic population, competes with membrane phosphotyrosyl protein targets for binding to activated Src. Our observations indicate that the interactions of Src with lipid and protein targets are dynamic and that the kinase and SH2 domain cooperate in the membrane targeting of Src.

Introduction

Cellular c-Src (Src) is a nonreceptor protein tyrosine kinase associated with the plasma membrane, cell–matrix and cell–cell adhesions, and endosomal vesicles. It mediates signaling by a variety of receptors (Schlaepfer et al., 1999; Abram and Courtneidge, 2000). Constitutively active Src can elicit cell transformation in vitro (Martin, 2001; Courtneidge, 2002; Frame, 2004), and Src expression and activity are elevated in many human epithelial cancers (Bjorge et al., 2000). The first 16 N-terminal residues of Src (residue numbers refer to chicken c-Src) contain an N-myristoylation site and a series of basic residues, both required for membrane association (Resh, 1999). Residues 17–84 constitute a unique domain, followed by SH3 and SH2 domains connected by a short linker. Another linker connects the SH2 domain to the kinase domain, which is required for most biological functions of Src. Tyr527 (or Tyr530 in human Src) undergoes an inhibitory phosphorylation by C-terminal Src kinase. In the inactive or “closed” form of Src, the SH2 domain interacts with pTyr527, positioning the SH3 domain to interact with a polyproline type II helix in the kinase-SH2 linker region. This causes inactivating conformational changes in the N-lobe of the kinase. Activation can occur as a result of dephosphorylation or mutation of Tyr527 or by binding of the SH2 or SH3 domains to activating ligands (Martin, 2001; Courtneidge, 2002; Frame, 2004; Chong et al., 2005).

Src initiates intracellular signaling by binding to protein substrates via its SH3 and SH2 domains, often inducing their processive phosphorylation. For example, Src SH3-dependent binding to p130Cas initiates a tyrosine phosphorylation cascade, in which the initially formed phosphotyrosyl (pTyr) residue binds to the Src SH2 domain, followed by phosphorylation at additional sites (Mayer et al., 1995). Thus, Src SH3 and SH2 domains have dual roles, mediating inactivating intramolecular interactions as well as promoting substrate phosphorylation.

Membrane association is critical for Src signaling, as indicated by the finding that a mutation eliminating myristoylation blocks cell transformation by activated Src (Kamps et al., 1985; Buss et al., 1986). Other Src-family kinases (SFKs), such as Fyn, Yes, and Lck, are thought to reside in cholesterol-enriched

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assemblies (commonly referred to as lipid rafts) and caveolae by virtue of their dual acylation (Shenoy-Scaria et al., 1994; Robbins et al., 1995; Resh, 1999; Janes et al., 2000). However, the single myristoyl in Src is not considered a strong raft-targeting signal (Melkonian et al., 1999), and reports on the raft association of Src were ambiguous (Shenoy-Scaria et al., 1994; Tansey et al., 2000; Lee et al., 2002; Mukherjee et al., 2003; Chen et al., 2006; Veracini et al., 2006).

Despite the functional importance of Src membrane association, little is known about the dynamics of these interactions, and how different elements (the kinase, SH2, and SH3 domains) control Src membrane targeting and association with substrate proteins. We tackled these questions by studying a series of chicken c-Src mutants fused to GFP, combining FRAP beam-size analysis (Henis et al., 2006) to determine their membrane association with biochemical studies to characterize their interactions with pTyr protein targets. Our data demonstrate that wild-type (WT) Src displays lipid-like membrane association, whereas the open-conformation constitutively active Src-Y527F shows a substantial contribution of interactions with slower-diffusing membrane-associated proteins. These interactions depend mutually on Src kinase activity and SH2 domain binding. The results suggest distinct and novel roles for Src kinase activity and SH2 and SH3 domains in regulating Src membrane interactions.

**Results**

**Interactions with membrane proteins contribute to the membrane association of activated but not nonactivated Src**

To study the roles of Src kinase activity and SH3 and SH2 domains in its interactions with the plasma membrane, we combined biochemical studies with FRAP beam-size analysis in live cells (Illenberger et al., 2003; Henis et al., 2006). The latter approach characterizes the membrane interactions of inner-leaflet proteins based on their lateral diffusion rates and on the relative contribution of exchange between membrane and cytosolic pools to their FRAP. These studies used a series of mutants of chicken c-Src with GFP fused at the C terminus (Table I).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Src mutant</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Src-WT-GFP</td>
<td>WT chicken c-Src</td>
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<tr>
<td>Src-K295M-GFP</td>
<td>Kinase-dead mutant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Src-Y527F-GFP</td>
<td>Y527F mutation, open conformation, constitutively active</td>
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<tr>
<td>Src-Y527F/K295M-GFP</td>
<td>Double mutant, open conformation, kinase dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Src-Y527F/R175A-GFP</td>
<td>Double mutant, open conformation, inactivated SH2 domain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Src-Y527F/W118A-GFP</td>
<td>Triple mutant, open conformation, kinase dead, inactivated SH2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Src-Y527F/R175M/ R175A-GFP</td>
<td>Triple mutant, open conformation, kinase dead, inactivated SH2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Src-251-GFP</td>
<td>Truncated N-terminal half, containing SH3/SH2 domains, no kinase region</td>
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Table I. Src-GFP mutants

To investigate whether Src activation affects its distribution between cytosolic and membrane fractions, we transfected COS-7 cells with Src-WT-GFP or constitutively active Src-Y527F-GFP and compared their membrane association by cell fractionation (Fig. 1) and FRAP (Figs. 2 and 3). Src-WT-GFP and Src-Y527F-GFP displayed a twofold higher percentage in the particulate (membrane) fraction (Fig. 1 A). The percentage of Src-Y527F-GFP in the membrane was slightly higher, possibly reflecting interactions with membrane-associated protein structures (e.g., focal adhesions) and peripheral membranes (Kaplan et al., 1994; Sandilands et al., 2004); this is in accord with the appearance of Src-Y527F-GFP in more distinct clusters, which partially colocalize with vinculin (Fig. 1 B).

To characterize the interactions of Src-GFP proteins with the plasma membrane, we conducted FRAP studies on live cells expressing Src-WT-GFP and Src-Y527F-GFP. Typical experiments are shown in Fig. 2; quantitative results on multiple cells using two different laser beam sizes (beam-size analysis) are depicted in Fig. 3. The beam-size analysis (Henis et al., 2006) explores membrane interactions of proteins interacting with the inner membrane leaflet, where FRAP can occur not only by lateral diffusion but also by exchange between membrane and cytosolic pools. If FRAP occurs solely by lateral diffusion, the characteristic fluorescence recovery time $\tau$ ($t_{1/2}$ for recovery) is the characteristic diffusion time, $\tau_D$, proportional to the area illuminated by the beam ($\tau_D = \omega^2/4D$, where $\omega$ is the Gaussian radius of the beam and $D$ is the lateral diffusion coefficient; Petersen et al., 1986). When FRAP occurs by exchange, $\tau$ is the chemical relaxation time, which is independent of the beam size (Henis et al., 2006). The $\tau(40\times)/\tau(63\times)$ ratio expected for the two beam sizes generated using the $40\times$ and $63\times$ objectives is 2.56 (the measured ratio between the illuminated areas) for recovery by pure lateral diffusion, versus 1 for exchange; intermediate values suggest a mixed recovery mode, where the faster process has a higher contribution (Henis et al., 2006).

In the current studies, we focused the laser beam on the nonadherent plasma membrane away from potential cell-substrate contacts, although for the coverslip-attached COS cells (few focal adhesions), similar results were obtained on the adherent membranes. FRAP of a free cytoplasmic protein (GFP) was faster than the experimental time scale, ensuring that fast cytoplasmic diffusion does not contribute to the measurement (Fig. 2 A). In accord with the fractionation experiments, which demonstrated both membrane and cytosolic pools, the beam-size analysis yielded $\tau(40\times)/\tau(63\times) = 1.8$ for Src-WT-GFP (FRAP by mixed lateral diffusion and exchange; Fig. 3). The contribution of exchange precludes an accurate translation of $\tau$ to $D$, but $D$ can be estimated from $\tau(63\times)$, because the smaller beam area reduces the characteristic diffusion time $\tau_D$; as $\tau$ for...
exchange does not depend on the beam size, this results in a higher contribution of lateral diffusion to the recovery with the smaller beam size (Henis et al., 2006). This yields $D = 0.57 \, \mu m^2/s$ (Fig. 2 B and Fig. 3 A) for Src-WT, close to $D$ determined by fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (Larson et al., 2005) for the dually acylated SFK Lyn-GFP ($0.3 \, \mu m^2/s$) and to the $D$ value we have measured for a lipid probe (DiIC 16; $1 \, \mu m^2/s$) in COS-7 cells (Rotblat et al., 2004). The membrane association of Src-WT-GFP is therefore mediated mainly by lipid-like interactions, presumably via its myristoyl residue and N-terminal region. On the other hand, constitutively active Src-Y527F-GFP exhibited markedly slower FRAP rates and a minor increase in the $\tau(40 \times) / \tau(63 \times)$ ratio to 2.2 (Fig. 2 C and Fig. 3). An elevated $\tau$ ratio suggests that the exchange rate is slowed relative to the lateral diffusion, in line with the slightly higher membrane fraction of Src-Y527F-GFP (Fig. 1 A). Yet, both $\tau(63 \times)$ and $\tau(40 \times)$ of Src-Y527F were strongly elevated, indicating that both exchange and lateral diffusion are inhibited, with a somewhat stronger effect on the exchange rate. Calculating $D$ of Src-Y527F-GFP from $\tau(63 \times)$ yields $D = 0.20 \, \mu m^2/s$ (Fig. 2 C and Fig. 3 A), approximately fivefold slower than the lipid probe. This suggests that interactions with transmembrane (TM) and/or membrane-associated proteins (whose lateral diffusion is slower than lipids) considerably contribute to the membrane association of Src-Y527F. The observed differences between Src-Y527F and Src-WT are not due to effects of Src activity on the membrane, as overexpression of constitutively active human c-Src-Y530F (10-fold excess plasmid DNA over Src-WT-GFP) did not affect the FRAP parameters of Src-WT-GFP (unpublished data).
The aforementioned experiments were conducted on cells grown with 10% FCS, conditions that may activate part of the Src-WT population. However, the percentage of activated Src-WT molecules is low, as indicated by the small (although significant) FRAP rate of Src-WT under these conditions (to D and τWT-GFP). PDGF stimulation (see Materials and methods) significantly increased the τ values of Src-WT-GFP (but not of Src-Y527F-GFP). (A) τ values in unstarved cells. The differences between the τ(63×) or τ(40×) values of Src-Y527F and Src-WT were highly significant, comparing the two proteins with the same beam size (***; P < 10−17; t test). (B) τ(40×)/τ(63×) ratios in unstarved cells. The τ ratio of Src-WT-GFP (but not of Src-Y527F-GFP) differed significantly from the 2.56 ratio between the measured beam sizes (P = 0.005). (C) Effects of serum starvation and PDGF on the τ values of Src-WT-GFP. PDGF stimulation (see Materials and methods) significantly increased the τ values of Src-WT (***; P < 10−4). (D) τ(40×)/τ(63×) ratios derived from C. Both τ ratios are significantly below the 2.56 beam-size ratio (P < 0.05).

Importantly, activation of Src-WT-GFP in serum-starved cells by PDGF significantly increased the τ values of Src-WT-GFP, suggesting a retardation in the FRAP kinetics (Fig. 3 C). This effect is in the same direction as that induced by the constitutively activating mutation (Y527F) but is considerably milder; this is not surprising considering the modest activation of Src-WT in PDGF-treated cells (Abram and Courtneidge, 2000; Sandilands et al., 2004).

The mobility-restricting interactions of Src-Y527F-GFP with the plasma membrane depend mainly on its kinase activity and SH2 domain

To explore the roles of Src kinase activity and SH2 and SH3 domains in the membrane association of Src-Y527F, we used FRAP beam-size analysis to investigate a series of Src-GFP mutants (Fig. 4). Inactivating Src kinase by a second mutation in Src-Y527F (Src-Y527F/K295M) strongly reduced τ(63×) and τ(40×), bringing them close to those of Src-WT (Fig. 4 A). Analogous effects followed SH2 inactivation (Src-Y527F/R175A) or deletion of the kinase domain (Src-251). Calculation of D from τ(63×) shows that these mutants revert to lipid-like diffusion (D ≈ 0.5 μm2/s). The triple mutant Src-Y527F/K295M/R175A, which lacks both kinase activity and SH2 binding, exhibited somewhat faster FRAP rates than Src-Y527F/K295M or Src-251 (D = 0.72 μm2/s); the latter two possess an exposed SH2 domain that can bind pTyr residues generated by endogenous SFKs. In contrast, SH3 domain inactivation (Src-Y527F/W118A) did not enhance the FRAP rates and mildly increased τ(63×) and τ(40×) (Fig. 4 A). The further retardation (D = 0.13 μm2/s; calculated from τ(63×)) suggests enhanced interactions with slower-diffusing membrane proteins. Collectively, these findings suggest that the mobility-restricting membrane interactions of Src-Y527F depend on its kinase activity and SH2
binding, whereas SH3 binding is dispensable. This does not imply that the SH3 domain cannot bind Src target proteins (Fig. 5 C); however, the generally lower binding affinities of Src SH3 relative to SH2 (Li, 2005; Liu et al., 2006) may render SH3 binding ineffective in retarding the diffusion of Src-Y527F. Moreover, the conformational change mediated by the SH3-inactivating mutation enhances Src kinase activity (Kanner et al., 1991; Erpel et al., 1995; Chong et al., 2005), potentially compensating for the loss of SH3 binding by generating more pTyr residues that can enhance Src binding via the SH2 domain. This could lead to the additional increase in \( \tau \) (63 \times) and \( \tau \) (40 \times) observed for Src-Y527F/W118A (Fig. 4). The SH2 mutation (R175A), in contrast, does not affect the catalytic activity of Src-Y527F because the intramolecular interaction between the SH2 domain and the C-terminal region is already disrupted by the Y527F mutation (Superti-Furga and Gonfloni, 1997).

All Src-GFP mutants except Src-Y527F/W118A exhibited \( \tau \) ratios not significantly different from the 2.56 ± 0.3 ratio expected for recovery by lateral diffusion, suggesting low contribution of exchange. This contrasts with Src-WT, whose \( \tau \) ratio was significantly below 2.56 (P < 0.005; Fig. 3 B). Thus, shifting to an open conformation may have a minor effect on the insertion of the N-terminal anchor of Src in the membrane. Unlike Src-Y527F, the \( \tau \) ratio of Src-Y527F/W118A was significantly lower than 2.56 (P < 0.005; Fig. 4 B), suggesting a higher relative contribution of exchange. A simple explanation may be that SH3 domain binding (lost in this mutant) retards mainly the exchange kinetics. However, because the \( \tau \) ratio is sensitive to the relative rate of exchange versus lateral diffusion, an alternative explanation is that the retardation of exchange by SH3 binding is negligible, and the higher contribution of exchange is due to the slower diffusion mediated by the SH3-inactivating mutation.
Src SH2 and SH3 domains bind pTyr proteins, whose formation depends on Src kinase activity and SH2 domain

To study the interactions of Src with its target proteins, we constructed GST fusion proteins with specific Src domains; the fusion proteins were coupled to glutathione–Sepharose beads and used to precipitate Src binding proteins from cells expressing different Src-GFP mutants (Fig. 5). The precipitated proteins were quantified by Western blotting using anti-pTyr antibodies. The specificity of precipitation by such fusion proteins, established in many previous studies, was confirmed by a comparison of the pTyr proteins in lysates and in precipitates, by the inability of GST alone to precipitate pTyr proteins, and by the ability of free pTyr to compete with precipitation by the GST-SH2 fusion (Fig. S1, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200701133/DC1). Comparison between lysates of cells transfected by different Src-GFP mutants measures the abundance of pTyr proteins generated in vivo by each Src mutant. The precipitated pTyr proteins were generated mainly by the expressed Src-GFP proteins, as suggested by the low pTyr levels in cells transfected with GFP or with Src-WT-GFP (Fig. 5). The results demonstrate a requirement for Src kinase activity (compare cells expressing Src-Y527F with K295M mutants). The SH2-inactivating mutation (R175A) reduced the levels of precipitated pTyr proteins to about half of the level generated by Src-Y527F, consistent with previous findings on SH2-dependent multisite processive phosphorylation (Mayer et al., 1995; Pellicena and Miller, 2001), consistent with the FRAP results (Fig. 4) showing a mutual dependence on Src kinase activity and SH2 domain. On the other hand, Src-Y527F/W118A (inactive SH3) generated amounts of pTyr proteins similar to those of Src-Y527F (Fig. 5), in line with the reports that SH3 inactivation increases Src kinase activity (Seidel-Dugan et al., 1992; Erpel et al., 1995; Chong et al., 2005) and thus can compensate for loss of SH3 binding to substrates. The high pTyr levels generated by this mutant provide multiple pTyr sites that it can bind via its SH2 domain, providing increased interactions that can further retard the recovery (Fig. 4).

In the affinity precipitation studies, the lysate from cells transfected by a given Src-GFP mutant was divided into aliquots, each precipitated by beads coupled to a specific GST-Src domain. The highest pTyr level was in cells transfected by Src-Y527F; GST-SH2 and GST-SH3 precipitated similar amounts of pTyr proteins (Fig. 5, C, third histogram). GST-SH3/SH2 was twice as effective, whereas inactivating SH3 or SH2 compromised the pull-down capacity. This distribution was retained in cells transfected by all the Src mutants, except Src-Y527F/W118A. The pTyr proteins generated by the latter mutant are precipitated more effectively by GST-SH2 (Fig. 5, C, compare the blue bars). This may reflect preferential phosphorylation of target proteins to which the SH3-inactive Src mutant binds via its SH2 domain.

Overexpression of paxillin-DsRed2 interferes with the mobility-restricting interactions of Src-Y527F-GFP

We next examined the ability of paxillin, a peripheral membrane-associated Src substrate, to compete for binding to activated Src. We chose to overexpress paxillin, because although it is found in focal adhesions, it has a large cytoplasmic pool (see Fig. 7 B) and exhibits fast turnover between the pools (Webb et al., 2004; Digman et al., 2005). Cells were cotransfected with Src-GFP and an excess of paxillin-DsRed2 and subjected to FRAP beam-size analysis (Fig. 6). None of the FRAP parameters of Src-WT were significantly altered, in line with the low level of pTyr proteins in cells expressing Src-WT-GFP. On the other hand, p<0.001, (**, P<0.001), (***, P<0.001), and the τ ratio of Src-Y527F were strongly reduced to values resembling those of Src-WT (Fig. 6). Thus, excess paxillin appears to compete with the mobility-restricting binding of Src-Y527F to membrane protein targets, leaving Src-Y527F anchored in the membrane mainly by lipid-like interactions. This interpretation is supported by the finding that overexpression of paxillin-DsRed2 reduces the coimmunoprecipitation of Src-Y527F with FAK, a known Src substrate (Fig. S2, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200701133/DC1). Moreover, mutation of the tyrosine phosphorylation sites on paxillin (paxillin-Y31F/W118F; Zaidel-Bar et al., 2007) significantly compromised the ability of the mutated paxillin-Y31F/Y118F-DsRed2 to affect the FRAP of Src-Y527F (Fig. 6). The incomplete loss of the effect is most likely due to the fact that paxillin contains not only SH2 but also SH3 binding sites (Schaller, 2001; Cary et al., 2002), which can contribute to Src binding via its SH3 domain. This notion is supported by the demonstration (Fig. 6) that inactivation of the SH3 domain in Src-Y527F/W118A, which retains an active SH2
domain, results in a small but distinct reduction in the ability of paxillin to affect the FRAP parameters of this Src mutant; this is shown by the lesser effect of overexpressed paxillin-DsRed2 on the $\tau$ values of Src-Y527F/W118A as compared with Src-Y527F (Fig. 6 A) and the insignificant effect on its $\pi(40\times)\sqrt{\tau(63\times)}$ ratio (Fig. 6 B). The $\tau$ values of all the other Src-Y527F double mutants, which contain either kinase-dead or SH2-inactivating mutations, were only weakly affected by paxillin overexpression (Fig. 6), in line with their mainly lipid-like interactions with the membrane even in the absence of paxillin overexpression. The high sensitivity of Src-Y527F and Src-Y527F/W118A, which are the most effective in generating pTyr proteins and possess SH2 binding, to competition by paxillin is consistent with the major role of Src kinase activity and SH2 binding in the mobility-restricting interactions with membrane-associated proteins.

In accord with the requirement for Src kinase activity, kinase-dead Src-Y527F/K295M, which exhibited lipid-like membrane interactions to begin with, did not show a significant modulation in $\pi(63\times)$, suggesting that $D$ is not altered, upon expression of paxillin-DsRed2 (Fig. 6 A). However, its $\pi(40\times)$ and $\pi(40\times)/\sqrt{\tau(63\times)}$ ratio were significantly reduced (Fig. 6), suggesting a higher contribution of exchange. This may reflect an ability of this mutant to bind paxillin via its SH3 domain, with a potential contribution of SH2 binding to pTyr-paxillin-DsRed2 generated to some degree by endogenous SFKs. The FRAP rates of Src-Y527F/W118A, which are the most effective in generating pTyr proteins and possess SH2 binding, to competition by paxillin is consistent with the major role of Src kinase activity and SH2 binding in the mobility-restricting interactions with membrane-associated proteins.

Figure 7. Paxillin and paxillin-DsRed2 display high cytoplasmic fractions and are tyrosine phosphorylated by coexpressed Src-Y527F-GFP. COS7 cells were cotransfected with vectors encoding Src-WT-GFP or Src-Y527F-GFP and paxillin-DsRed2 (Pax-DsRed2) or empty vector (1:10 DNA ratio). (A) Distribution of Src-GFP between cytosolic (S) and pellet (P) fractions. Subcellular fractionation, immunoblotting, and quantification were conducted as in Fig. 1 A. The blots depict representative experiments; bars are mean ± SEM ($n = 3$) of multiple experiments. Overexpression of paxillin-DsRed2 slightly increased the percentage in pellet of Src-Y527F (*, $P < 0.05$). (B) Distribution and tyrosine phosphorylation of endogenous paxillin (Endo. Pax) and paxillin-DsRed2. Equal percentages (vol/vol) of each fraction were immunoprecipitated (IP) by anti-paxillin, followed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting (IB) with anti-pTyr (top) or anti-paxillin (middle; representative experiments). Bars depict means ± SEM ($n = 3$) of multiple experiments. To quantify pTyr in the paxillin and paxillin-DsRed2 bands, the sum of their intensities in each lane of the pTyr blots was calibrated according to the total paxillin level (paxillin-DsRed2 plus endogenous paxillin in both the cytosolic and pellet fractions) in the same transfection. The results are presented relative to the calibrated pTyr level precipitated from the cytosolic fraction of cells cotransfected with Src-Y527F and paxillin-DsRed2, taking this value as 100. Src-Y527F increased the levels of pTyr-paxillin and pTyr-paxillin-DsRed2 in both cytosolic and pellet to a significantly higher level than Src-WT ($P < 0.001$). (C) Cellular distribution of paxillin-DsRed2 coexpressed with Src-WT-GFP or Src-Y527F-GFP. Confocal images were obtained as in Fig. 1 B. Arrows indicate Src-GFP and paxillin-DsRed2 colocalized spots (observed for Src-Y527F-GFP but not for Src-WT-GFP). Bar, 20 μm.
paxillin-DsRed2, endogenous paxillin, and their pTyr levels in cells transfected with Src-WT-GFP or Src-Y527F-GFP alone or together with paxillin-DsRed2 (Fig. 7 B). A higher percentage of paxillin and paxillin-DsRed2 was in the cytosolic fraction in cells expressing Src-WT (84% of the total paxillin and paxillin-DsRed2) and Src-Y527F (82%; Fig. 7 B, middle). pTyr-paxillin and pTyr-paxillin-DsRed2 had a similar distribution (76–81% cytosolic) in these cells. Importantly, expression of Src-Y527F-GFP as compared with Src-WT-GFP significantly increased the levels of all pTyr-paxillin proteins (P < 0.001; Fig. 7 B). Thus, although a fraction of paxillin is membrane associated, a major fraction is cytoplasmic, and both are subject to tyrosine phosphorylation by the coexpressed Src-Y527F-GFP. This is in accord with the ability of paxillin-DsRed2 to compete with membrane-associated Src substrates for binding Src-Y527F, and with the partial colocalization observed by confocal microscopy between the subpopulation of paxillin-DsRed2 found in clusters and Src-Y527F-GFP but not Src-WT-GFP (Fig. 7 C).

Discussion

The studies reported here indicate that Src association with the plasma membrane is dynamic and that there are major differences between the membrane interactions of Src-WT (closed conformation) and Src-Y527F (activated open conformation). We demonstrate that these differences are mediated by transient binding of Src-Y527F to target proteins in the membrane, which depend on Src kinase activity and its SH2 domain, and propose a mechanism for the regulation of Src membrane association by its specific domains.

A major fraction of Src-WT-GFP and Src-Y527F-GFP is membrane associated, but they both display significant cytosolic fractions (Fig. 1 A). This is in accord with a recent study on the SFK Lyn-GFP, which detected a fast-diffusing cytoplasmic population both before and after stimulation (Larson et al., 2005). Although the membrane fraction of Src-Y527F is only slightly higher then that of Src-WT (Fig. 1 A), their association with the membrane is very different, as indicated by the FRAP studies (Figs. 2 and 3). The lateral diffusion of Src-WT in the plasma membrane (D = 0.6 μm²/s) is close to the values measured for a lipid probe (see Results) and for the membrane-associated population of Lyn-GFP (Larson et al., 2005), suggesting that, at steady state, the large majority of Src-WT has no considerable interactions with slower-diffusing TM proteins. The Src N-terminal domain contains an N-myristoyl anchor and a polybasic cluster (Resh, 1999), resembling the C-terminal farnesylated lipid anchor domain of K-Ras (Hancock and Parton, 2005). In contrast, the lateral diffusion of Src-Y527F is threefold slower, implying that it is retarded by interactions with TM and/or membrane-associated proteins (Figs. 2 and 3). The biological relevance of this difference is supported by the observation that PDGF, an established activator of Src (Broome and Hunter, 1996; Abram and Courtenedge, 2000), induces a significant retardation in the FRAP kinetics of Src-WT-GFP (Fig. 3 C). This effect is smaller than the mobility retardation of the constitutively active Src-Y527F-GFP, presumably because only a fraction of the Src-WT-GFP molecules are activated by PDGF. This is in line with the modest activation of Src-WT after PDGF stimulation (Abram and Courtneidge, 2000; Sandilands et al., 2004).

The threefold slower FRAP kinetics of Src-Y527F indicate that its mobility-retarding interactions are transient (dynamic), as stable binding to target membrane proteins, which typically diffuse 10–100-fold slower than lipids (Edidin, 1992; Jacobson et al., 1995), would inhibit D to a much higher degree. In line with these findings, only a mild retardation of D was observed also for Lyn after antigen stimulation of IgE receptors (Larson et al., 2005) and for Lck after cross-linking of T cell receptors (Kusumi et al., 2005). Moreover, because the mobility-restricting interactions of Src are largely mediated by its SH2 domain (Figs. 4 and 5; discussed in the following paragraph), their dynamic nature is in accord with the report that high-affinity binding of SH2 domains to pTyr peptides is accompanied by rapid dissociation and exchange kinetics (Felder et al., 1993; Ladbury et al., 1995). The interactions of Src-Y527F with membrane proteins retard its exchange rate to an even higher degree than its lateral diffusion, as suggested by the mild increase (from 1.8 to 2.2) in the τ(40)×τ(63) ratio (Henis et al., 2006; see Results). This correlates with the minor increase in Src-Y527F membrane association relative to Src-WT (Fig. 1 A).

To identify the Src domains responsible for the mobility-retarding interactions of constitutively active Src, we determined the effects of second mutations in Src-Y527F on the FRAP parameters (Fig. 4). The mobility retardation required both an intact SH2 domain and Src kinase activity, as shown by the shift to lipid-like diffusion (resembling Src-WT) after functional inactivation of the SH2 domain, Src kinase inactivation, or deletion of the entire catalytic segment. The SH3 domain has only a minor contribution to the mobility-restricting interactions, as its inactivation (Src-Y527F/W118A) did not eliminate the mobility retardation, which was even modestly enhanced (Fig. 4). These observations suggest that the mobility-restricting interactions of activated Src are mediated mainly by the binding of SH2 domain to pTyr residues in membrane-associated proteins. Formally, we cannot exclude the possibility that some of these pTyr residues are phosphorylated by Src-activated tyrosine kinases rather than directly by Src. However, studies with modified forms of Src that accept chemically modified nucleotides indicated that many pTyr proteins in Src-transfected cells are indeed the result of direct phosphorylation by Src (Shah et al., 1997). Thus, it appears that the modulation in Src-Y527F FRAP kinetics is mediated largely by its binding to membrane-associated protein substrates that it has itself directly phosphorylated (Fig. 8 A).

The effects of the aforementioned mutations on Src-Y527F FRAP parameters were paralleled by their effects on the abundance of pTyr proteins that can be recognized in vitro by the Src noncatalytic domains (Fig. 5). In particular, inactivation of the catalytic domain reduced the abundance of these proteins below the level observed in cells overexpressing Src-WT, and inactivation of the SH2 domain strongly reduced their level. In vitro the Src SH3 domain can bind to Src substrates (Fig. 5). However, in agreement with the dispensability of the SH3 domain for the mobility retardation of Src-Y527F, its inactivation in vivo hardly affected the abundance of the pTyr proteins (Fig. 5). The failure of the SH3 mutation to reverse the mobility...
with the inner membrane leaflet through lipid-like interactions (Fig. 8A). We propose that Src-WT is dynamically associated primarily on SH2-pTyr binding. These findings reflect what is known about the affinities of SH2 domains (Felder et al., 1993; Ladbury et al., 1995; Mayer, 2001).

A model for processive phosphorylation by Src was proposed based on studies with defined Src target proteins (Mayer et al., 1999; Pellicena and Miller, 2001). In this model, the relatively weak binding via the Src SH3 domain promotes initial phosphorylation of the substrate protein, leading to binding of SH2 to the resulting pTyr residue, stabilization of Src substrate interaction, and further substrate phosphorylation (Fig. 8B). Here, we expand this model to explain the roles of Src domains in the dynamic regulation of its association with membrane sites (Fig. 8A). We propose that Src-WT is dynamically associated with the inner membrane leaflet through lipid-like interactions (Fig. 8A). Activated Src retains the lipid anchor interactions, but in addition, binds transiently to TM and peripheral membrane protein substrates, inhibiting its lateral diffusion and exchange. The Src SH2 domain promotes multisite processive phosphorylation (Fig. 8B); this generates a positive feedback loop, with the SH2 domain successively promoting Src substrate binding and further phosphorylation. Although weak SH3 domain interactions may promote initial binding to substrates (Mayer et al., 1999; Pellicena and Miller, 2001), it is apparent that in cells expressing Src-Y527F, both the FRAP kinetics of active Src and the overall abundance of pTyr proteins are primarily determined by the Src SH2 domain and its interactions with pTyr sites.

Activated Src binds not only to TM proteins but also to peripheral protein substrates, which may possess a considerable cytoplasmic population. According to the model (Fig. 8A), overexpression of such a protein should compete with the binding of activated Src to target membrane proteins. Indeed, overexpression of paxillin-DsRed2, which has a high cytosolic fraction similar to that of endogenous paxillin (Fig. 7B), selectively interfered with the mobility retardation of Src-GFP mutants. Only Src mutants with both active kinase and intact SH2 domain were highly affected by paxillin (Fig. 6), in line with the major role of Src kinase and SH2 domain in the interactions with membrane proteins. However, although Src-Y527F reverted to lipid-like membrane association, Src-Y527F/W118A (inactivated SH3 domain) retained some mobility-retarding interactions; the rates of exchange and lateral diffusion of Src in complex with the peripheral protein would be affected by the membrane interactions of the latter. (B) Dependence of Src substrate phosphorylation on the Src SH2 domain binding partially contributes to the competition by paxillin. It suggests that, at least under overexpression conditions, SH3 binding with the TM proteins (3 and 4). Upon binding to a peripheral protein that undergoes exchange between membrane and cytosolic pools, Src retains the N-terminal lipid-like membrane interactions; the rates of exchange and lateral diffusion of Src in complex with the peripheral protein would be affected by the membrane interactions of the latter. (B) Dependence of Src substrate phosphorylation on the Src SH2 domain binding.
cytoplasmic fraction of Src-Y527F, in line with the retained lipid interactions of the Src lipid anchor, which effectively targets Src-WT to the membrane (Fig. 7 A). The membrane interactions of Src–paxillin complexes may be somewhat enhanced, as indicated by the small increase in the membrane fraction of Src-Y527F after paxillin overexpression. This may reflect a contribution by the complexed paxillin to the targeting of Src to specific structures/clusters, as shown by their partial colocalization in the cells (Fig. 7 C).

The behavior of activated Src may have general implications for signaling by SFKs activated by physiological signals. Thus, the SFK Lyn was found both in the plasma membrane and the cytoplasm, and its lateral diffusion rate in the membrane was retarded after IgE receptor stimulation (Larson et al., 2005). The lateral diffusion of Lck, another SFK, was also retarded in response to cross-linking of T cell receptors (Kusumi et al., 2005). In addition, recent findings support the idea that enhanced formation of Src complexes with targets such as integrins and receptor tyrosine kinases is important for tumorigenesis (Guo et al., 2006). Thus, modulation of Src membrane interactions by binding to membrane-associated target proteins is relevant to its biological functions, including cell migration and tumorigenesis. Further characterization of these complexes by both biophysical and biochemical approaches will therefore be of considerable interest.

Materials and methods

Reagents

Murine anti-vinculin (clone HiV-1) and anti-factate dehydrogenase (clone HH-17) ascites were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Murine anti-paxillin and anti-FAK were obtained from BD Biosciences. Rabbit anti-GFP and anti-caveolin 1 were obtained from Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc. Murine anti-pY737 mAb (clone 4G10) was obtained from Upstate Biotechnology. Cy3 and Cy5 antibodies were obtained from Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories. Goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated to IRDye 800 was obtained from Rockland Immunocchemicals, and Alexa 680 goat anti-rabbit IgG was obtained from Invitrogen. O-phospho-tyrosine was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich.

Plasmids

Expression vectors for Src-WT-GFP, Src-Y527F-GFP (both in pEGFP-N1), and Src-251-GFP (in pBabePuro) (Timpson et al., 2001; Sandilands et al., 2004) were donated by M. Frame (The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow, Scotland). Additional Src-GFP mutants (Table I) were generated by site-directed mutagenesis using QuikChange (Stratagene). The mutagenic primers used are given in Table S1 (available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200701133/DC1).

Construction and expression of GST fusion proteins with Src domains

To generate GST-Src domain DNA constructs, the DNA sequences encoding each domain were amplified by PCR and cloned into the pGEX-KG vector (Guan and Dixon, 1991). For plasmids encoding GST-SH3 (amino acids 79–147 of chicken c-Src), GST-SH2 (amino acids 148–251), and GST-SH3/SH2 (amino acids 79–251), SrcY527F-GFP in pEGFP served as template. Plasmids encoding GST-SH3/SH2 (containing W118A SH3-inactivating mutation) and GST-SH3/SH2* (containing an R175A SH2-inactivating mutation) were generated similarly, except that Src double mutants in pEGFP (Src-Y527F/W118A-GFP and Src-Y527F/R175A-GFP, respectively) served as template. The primers used are detailed in Table S2 (available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200701133/DC1).

Forward and reverse primers contained a BamHI site and an EcoRI site, respectively.

Cell culture and transfections

COS-7 cells (American Type Culture Collection) were grown in DMEM containing 10% FCS as described previously (Shvartsman et al., 2003). For FRAP and confocal microscopy, COS-7 cells grown on glass coverslips were transfected using DEAE-dextran (Seed and Aruffo, 1987) with plasmid DNA encoding one of the Src-GFP derivatives alone or together with a 10-fold excess of paxillin-DsRed2 or empty pDsRed2. For biochemical studies, the procedure was similar, except that cells were grown in 10-cm dishes and transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen).
GST fusion protein binding to pTyr-bearing proteins

At 48–72 h after transfection, COS-7 cells expressing specific Src-GFP proteins were lysed in NP-40 lysis buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, 50 mM NaF, and 200 μM NaVO₄) containing the protease inhibitors. Lysates were centrifuged, and aliquots [0.5 mg protein] were incubated for 1.5 h at 4°C with glutathione–Sepharose beads bearing ~30 μg of GST fusion protein (GST; GST-SH3, GST-SH2, GST-SH3/SH2, GST-SH3/SH2*/*SH2, or GST-SH3/SH2*, described in Table S2). After four washes in lysis buffer, proteins bound to the beads were solubilized by boiling in SDS sample buffer, resolved by 8.5% SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by immunoblotting using anti-pTyr antibodies.

Immunoprecipitation

COS-7 cells cotransfected with Src-WT-GFP or Src-Y257F-GFP and paxillin-DsRed2 (or empty vector) were fractionated as described. 5% (vol/vol) of each fraction (soluble and precipitate) in the high-salt buffer was taken to determine Src-GFP levels. The remaining 95% was immunoprecipitated by 1.8 μg mouse anti-paxillin essentially as described previously [Donaldson et al., 2000]. Immunoprecipitation of endogenous FAK was performed similarly on whole cell lysates using 2 μg mouse anti-FAK mAb. The beads were washed three times with the high-salt buffer. Bound material was solubilized in SDS sample buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted with anti-pTyr or anti-paxillin antibodies.

Immunoblotting

Blots were blocked in Odyssey blocking buffer (OBB; LI-COR) diluted 1:1 with PBS and incubated (12 h; 4°C) with primary antibodies (1 μg/ml anti-pTyr, 0.4 μg/ml anti-GFP, 0.25 μg/ml anti-paxillin, 0.25 μg/ml anti-FAK, and 1:500 dilution of anti-lactate dehydrogenase ascites or 0.2 μg/ml anti-caveolin-1) in OBB containing 0.2% Tween 20. They were then incubated (1 h, 22°C) with secondary antibodies (0.1 μg/ml goat anti-mouse or 0.2 μg/ml goat anti-rabbit IgG coupled to IR dyes) in OBB containing 0.2% Tween 20 and 0.01% SDS. The blots were quantified using the Odyssey IR imaging system (LI-COR).

Online supplemental material

Table S1 lists the primers used to generate double and triple chicken c-Src mutants. Table S2 depicts the pGEX-KG plasmids encoding GST-Src domain fusion proteins used to generate them. Fig. S1 shows that GST-Src domain fusion proteins specifically precipitate pTyr proteins from lysates of cells expressing Src-GFP mutants. Fig. S2 shows that overexpression of paxillin-DsRed2 reduces the coimmunoprecipitation of Src-GFP proteins. Additional information about experimental procedures is available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200701133/DC1.

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