1 Title:

2 Cytokinin functions as an asymmetric and anti-gravitropic signal in lateral roots

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31 Abstract

Directional organ growth allows the plant root system to strategically cover its 32 surroundings. Intercellular auxin transport is aligned with the gravity vector in 33 the primary root tips, facilitating downward organ bending at the lower root 34 flank. Here we show that cytokinin signaling functions as a lateral root specific 35 anti-gravitropic component, promoting the radial distribution of the root system. 36 We performed a genome-wide association study and revealed that signal peptide 37 processing of Cytokinin Oxidase 2 (CKX2) affects its enzymatic activity and, 38 thereby, determines the degradation of cytokinins in natural Arabidopsis 39 thaliana accessions. Cytokinin signaling interferes with growth at the upper 40 lateral root flank and thereby prevents downward bending. Our interdisciplinary 41 approach revealed that two phytohormonal cues at opposite organ flanks 42 counterbalance each other's negative impact on growth, suppressing organ 43 growth towards gravity and allow for radial expansion of the root system. 44

45

46 Introduction

Root architectural traits define plant performance and yield (Uga et al., 2013). The 47 radial spreading of the root system depends on the directional growth of primary and 48 secondary roots. The phytohormone auxin plays a central role in aligning root organ 49 growth towards gravity (Su et al., 2017). In the root tip, columella cells perceive 50 changes in gravity via statolith sedimentation (Leitz et al., 2009). The relative change 51 in statolith positioning triggers a partial polarization of redundant PIN3, PIN4 and PIN7 52 auxin efflux carriers towards this side, leading to enhanced auxin transport along the 53 gravity vector (Friml et al., 2002; Kleine-Vehn et al., 2010). The asymmetric distribution 54 of auxin eventually reduces cellular elongation rates at the lower root flank, which 55 consequently leads to differential growth within the organ and bending towards gravity 56 (Friml et al., 2003; Rosquete et al., 2013; Ruiz Rosquete et al., 2018). 57

Lateral roots (LRs) substantially differ from main roots, establishing a distinct gravitropic set point angle (GSA) (Digby and Firn, 1995). The divergent developmental programs of lateral and main (primary) roots allow the root system to strategically cover the surrounding substrate. In *Arabidopsis*, LRs emerge from the main root at a 90° angle (stage I LRs) and afterwards display maturation of gravity sensing cells, as well as the *de-novo* formation of an elongation zone (Rosquete et al., 2013). Transient

expression of PIN3 in columella cells temporally defines asymmetric auxin distribution 64 and differential elongation rates in stage II LRs (Guyomarc'h et al., 2012; Rosquete et 65 al., 2013). This developmental stage lasts 8-9 hours and is characterized by 66 asymmetric growth towards gravity at a slower rate than in primary roots (Rosquete et 67 al., 2013; Schöller et al., 2018). During this phase of development, the primary GSA of 68 LRs is established. The subsequent repression of PIN3 in columella cells of stage III 69 LRs coincides with symmetric elongation, maintaining this primary GSA (Rosquete et 70 al., 2013). Notably, the de-repression of PIN3 and PIN4 in columella cells of older stage 71 III LRs does not correlate with additional bending to gravity (Ruiz Rosquete et al., 72 2018). This finding illustrates that the primary GSA is developmentally maintained, 73 determining an important root architectural trait. Moreover, a stage III LR will return to 74 its initial GSA if it is reoriented relative to the gravity vector (Mullen and Hangarter, 75 76 2003; Rosquete et al., 2013; Roychoudhry et al., 2013). Accordingly, the partial suppression of a full gravitropic response in recently emerged LRs is critical for 77 78 establishing the primary growth direction of LRs, which importantly contributes to the root system architecture. 79

Despite the apparent importance of directional LR growth for radial exploration of the root system, the underlying suppressive mechanisms are largely unexplored. Using genetic, physiological, computational, biochemical, and cell biological approaches, we reveal that two opposing hormonal cues at the lower and upper lateral root flank counterbalance each other and set directional LR growth.

85

Angular lateral root growth displays substantial natural variation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

To examine the natural diversity in radial root growth, we screened 210 sequenced *Arabidopsis* accessions (Figure 1A, Table S1) and quantified their primary GSA of LRs. When grown *in vitro* on the surface of the growth medium, we observed extensive natural variation for the mean GSA values, detecting a deviation of about 40° between most extreme accessions (Figure 1B).

Because the *in vitro* approach allowed only two-dimensional analysis of root growth, we further assessed angular growth of LRs in three dimensional and soil systems. For this purpose, we studied a subset (depicted by red and blue lines in Figure 1B) of hyper- and hypo-responsive accessions in greater detail (Figure 1C). To allow three-dimensional root expansion *in vitro*, we grew this subset of accessions in

98 growth medium-filled cylinders (Ruiz Rosquete et al., 2018) (Figure S1A). In addition, we used the GLO-Roots system (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015), which is a luciferase 99 (LUC)-based imaging platform to visualize root systems in a soil environment (Figure 100 S1B). Accordingly, we transformed the same subset of accessions with *pUBQ:LUC2o*, 101 ubiguitously driving LUC expression. In the Col-0 reference accession, about 60% of 102 emerged LRs displayed a GSA between 51° and 70° in all three growth conditions 103 (Figure 1C-E). In all growth systems, hypo- and hyper-responsive accessions 104 displayed a pronounced shift towards higher (71°-90° and 91°-110°) and lower (31°-105 106 50°) angle categories, respectively (Figure 1C-E). This suggests that our twodimensional, in vitro screen is highly suitable to identify natural accessions with 107 diverging GSA values of their root systems. 108

109

Genome wide association study reveals a link between cytokinin metabolismand angular growth of lateral roots

Next, we sought to identify molecular players involved in the LR trait of our interest. To 112 achieve this, we used our quantitative data on primary GSA of LRs and conducted a 113 genome-wide association study (GWAS) (Seren et al., 2012). We identified several 114 115 chromosomal regions, displaying associations with our trait (Figure 2A). A prominent peak at chromosome 2 drew our attention to a thymine (T)/guanine (G) single-116 nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) located in the CYTOKININ OXIDASE2 (CKX2) gene 117 (position 8,447,233) (Figure 2B). Importantly, the minor G allele, showing a frequency 118 119 of 19.5% in all sequenced and 32.7% in our set of accessions, was associated with increased GSA values, reflecting more perpendicular LR growth to gravity (Figure 2C). 120 Notably, linkage disequilibrium analysis showed that adjacent SNPs display 121 pronounced non-random association with our SNP of interest (Figure S2), suggesting 122 that the CKX2 gene could be linked to variations in angular growth of LRs. 123

CKX enzymes are responsible for the irreversible degradation of cytokinins 124 (CKs) via the oxidative cleavage of their side chain (Schmülling et al., 2003). Indeed, 125 CK metabolism was affected in *ckx2-1 (ckx2* in *Col-0* background) mutant roots (Figure 126 S3A-E), suggesting that CKX2-dependent metabolism of CKs may contribute to GSA 127 establishment in lateral roots. To test whether this class of phytohormones may 128 regulate angular growth of LRs, we initially transferred 7-day old seedlings of the 129 reference accession Col-0 to medium supplemented with CKs. We observed a 130 concentration-dependent increase in GSA values of LRs emerging in presence of 131

active CKs, such as 6-Benzylaminopurin (BAP) (Figure 2D), trans-zeatin (tZ) and
isopentenyladenine (iP) (Figure S3F and G). Conversely, CK receptor mutants showed
accelerated bending of LRs and accordingly decreased GSA values (Figure 2E).
These data suggest that cytokinin signaling interferes with downward bending of
emerged LRs. Notably, emerging LRs of winter oilseed rape also displayed reduced
bending of LRs when treated with BAP (Figure S3H), suggesting that the effect of CK
on directional LR growth is likely to be conserved.

To further assess the importance of CKX2 in GSA establishment, we disrupted 139 CKX activity in the reference accession Col-0. Treatments with the CKX inhibitor 140 INCYDE (Zatloukal et al., 2008) phenocopied the *ckx2* loss-of-function mutant, both 141 displaying more horizontal LRs when compared to its respective controls (Figure 2F, 142 G). On the other hand, CKX2 overexpressing (OX) plants showed accelerated bending 143 of LRs, phenocopying the CK receptor mutants (Figure 2G). These data suggest that 144 CK signaling defines directional lateral root growth by reducing LR bending after 145 146 emergence.

147

148 Cytokinin Response Factors define angular growth of lateral roots

Our data indicates that CK signaling impacts the angular growth of emerged LRs. 149 Therefore, we assessed whether CK-dependent transcription factors indeed have an 150 impact on LR growth in the reference accession Col-0. It has been previously shown 151 that CK signaling initiates transcriptional changes via the Arabidopsis response factors 152 (ARRs) (Skylar et al., 2010) and the cytokinin response factors (CRFs) (Raines et al., 153 2015; Šimášková et al., 2015). According to available organ specific microarray data 154 (Brady et al., 2007), ARR3 and ARR4 as well as CRF2 and CRF3 (Figure S4A-B) were 155 strongly upregulated in older LRs. However, we did not detect any expression of ARR3 156 and ARR4 in young stage II LRs, using promoter GUS reporter lines for ARR3 and 157 ARR4 (pARR3:GUS/ pARR4:GUS; Figure S4C)). Moreover, angular growth of LRs 158 was not altered in arr3 or arr4 mutants (Figure S4D). On the other hand, we confirmed 159 160 expression of CRF2 and CRF3 in the early stages of LR development (Figure 3A and S4E). pCRF2:GFP-GUS was ubiquitously expressed in young LRs, while pCRF3:GFP-161 GUS was preferentially expressed in cortical and epidermal cell files (Figure 3A and 162 S4E). Notably, compared to emerged laterals, the main root displayed much weaker 163 CRF2 and CRF3 expression (Figure S4F), suggesting that CRF2 and CRF3 are 164 particularly highly expressed in young LRs. 165

In agreement with *CRF2* and *CRF3* expression in emerged LRs, loss-of-function
alleles of *crf2* and *crf3* displayed enhanced bending of LRs (Figure 3B and S4G).
Conversely, we found that ubiquitous overexpression of either CRF2 or CRF3 led to
more horizontal LRs (Figure 3B).

- This set of data confirms that cytokinin signaling, utilizing transcription factors such as CRF2 and CRF3, regulates angular growth of LRs.
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173 Cytokinin signaling integrates environmental cues into angular growth of lateral 174 roots

Our data supports a role for cytokinin signaling in modulating angular growth of LRs. 175 To investigate whether cytokinin modulates angular LR growth in response to 176 environmental cues, we examined whether the primary GSA of Arabidopsis accessions 177 is linked to geographic origins. Intriguingly, accessions with the largest GSA values 178 predominantly originated in Nordic (above 58°N) regions (Figure 4A). In addition, the 179 above described minor G allele of CKX2, phenocopying the ckx2 loss of function (in 180 Col-0), was notably the most prevalent allele in the north of Sweden (Figure 4B). 181 Previous work showed that *Arabidopsis* accessions in the north of Sweden are fully 182 vernalized before snow fall (Duncan et al., 2015). In fact, the respective habitat in the 183 north of Sweden is most of the year covered with snow (Figure S5A). Snowpack 184 insulation capacity can protect plants from extreme temperatures, but may also restrict 185 soil-atmosphere gas exchange, eventually leading to hypoxia in the soil (Martz et al., 186 187 2016). Additionally, rapid snowmelt in spring can lead to temporary soil flooding, which depletes soil oxygen and may restrict the amount of oxygen reaching the root tissues. 188 Hypoxic conditions have been shown to induce bending in the primary root as a 189 possible adaptive avoidance response (Evsholdt-Derzsó and Sauter, 2017). Therefore, 190 we asked whether hypoxia conditions also modulate the bending of LRs. In contrast to 191 the primary root response, we observed that hypoxic stress reduced bending in 192 emerged LRs (Figure 4C), demonstrating distinct pathways to regulate root bending in 193 194 primary and secondary roots. Interestingly, hypoxia stress for 4 hours was sufficient to increase GSA of subsequently emerged LRs in *Col-0* (Figure 4C), mimicking the *ckx2* 195 loss of function phenotype. Furthermore, hypoxic stress did not further increase GSA 196 197 in the *ckx2* mutant (Figure 4C), proposing that CK metabolism could mediate hypoxia-198 dependent repression of LR bending. Furthermore, the LRs of ahk2 ahk4 cytokinin receptor mutants were insensitive to the hypoxia-induced repression of LR bending 199

(Figure 4D). Accordingly, we conclude that cytokinin signaling integrates
 environmental signals, such as hypoxia, into GSA establishment of emerged LRs.

202

203 Single base-pair variation in CKX2 impacts on its *in-planta* activity

Our data proposes that variation in CKX2 is linked to the control of radial root system 204 expansion in natural Arabidopsis accessions. The previously mentioned G allele of 205 CKX2 is associated with higher GSA values (Figure 2C), which phenocopies the loss 206 of CKX2 function or increase in CK levels (Figure 2D). Accordingly, we next assessed 207 whether the identified SNP affects the activity of CKX2. The underlying T to G mutation 208 alters the first amino acid in the mature enzyme from an isoleucine (I) to a methionine 209 (M). This mutation is situated just after the predicted cleavage site of a signal peptide 210 (SP). The SP allows CKX2 to be inserted into the endoplasmic reticulum and to be 211 subsequently secreted into the extracellular space (apoplast) (Schmülling et al., 2003). 212 To assess potential trafficking or processing defects caused by the amino acid change 213 (Samalova et al., 2006), we generated a ratiometric CKX2 reporter by fusing the Green 214 Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and mScarlet to the N-terminal and C-terminal ends of 215 CKX2, respectively. Fluorescent mScarlet signal of the non-mutated CKX2^I readily 216 accumulated in the apoplast, suggesting that the fluorescent tags do not abolish 217 processing and/or secretion of CKX2-mScarlet (Figure 5A and S5B). Ratiometric 218 imaging of GFP and mScarlet revealed a higher degree of co-localization for mutated 219 version CKX2^M, suggesting reduced processing and/or secretion of CKX2^M when 220 compared to CKX2^I (Figure 5B). To visualize the effect of the T to G mutation on SP 221 cleavage, we N-terminally tagged CKX2 with GFP and subsequently expressed 222 GFP^{SP}CKX2^I and its respective mutated version GFP^{SP}CKX2^M in tobacco. Western 223 blot analysis revealed a decreased cleavage of GFP^{SP}CKX2^M when compared to 224 GFP^{SP}CKX2^I (Figure 5C). Even though we cannot eliminate the possibility that N-225 terminal GFP may interfere with normal SP processing rates, the relative differences 226 between the two assessed alleles suggests that the identified SNP impacts the SP 227 cleavage in CKX2. 228

The SP processing is an important determinant of the mature protein and, hence, we examined the enzymatic CKX2 activity in the presence and absence of the signal peptide. We expressed full length ^{SP}CKX2^I and ^{SP}CKX2^M as well as the SPlacking counterparts ^{-SP}CKX2^I and ^{-SP}CKX2^M in *Escherichia coli* and measured their ability to oxidize CKs. Both SP-lacking forms ^{-SP}CKX2^I and ^{-SP}CKX2^M showed a 10-fold higher activity compared to the SP containing versions (Figure 5D). This *in vitro* data
suggests that SP processing is required to ensure full enzymatic activity of CKX2.

Next, to assess whether the T to G mutation also affects CKX2 activity in planta, 236 we expressed full length $pCKX2::CKX2^{l}$ and $pCKX2::CKX2^{M}$ encoding versions in the 237 *ckx2* mutant background. As expected, the wild-type (Col-0) $CKX2^{\prime}$ was able to fully 238 complement the *ckx2* mutant phenotype (Figure 5E and Figure S5C). In contrast, the 239 mutated $CKX2^{M}$ version was not able to reverse the reduced LR bending of ckx2240 mutants (Figure 5E and S5C). Overall, our data suggests that the T to G mutation 241 found in natural accessions renders CKX2 to be largely non-functional in planta by 242 disrupting its secretion and/or SP processing. 243

Thus, we conclude that variation in SP processing of CKX2 contributes to the natural variation of CK-dependent angular LR growth in *Arabidopsis*.

246

CKX2 does not detectably interfere with auxin signaling in emerged lateral roots 247 Next, we investigated the cellular mechanism by which CKX2 activity modulates the 248 primary GSA of LRs. We first inspected the spatial expression of CKX2 to identify cells 249 in which CKX2 may directly regulate angular growth in LRs. pCKX2::CKX2-250 *mTurquoise* was weakly expressed in the tip of stage I LRs but showed increased 251 expression in stage II and III LRs (Figure 6A). We confirmed that endogenous CKX2 252 transcripts are strongly up-regulated in stage II and III LRs by examining expression in 253 excised LR tissue using qPCR (Figure 6B). Notably, *pCKX2::CKX2-mTurquoise* was 254 not detectable in the primary root tip (Figure 6B and S6A), proposing that CKX2 might 255 specifically act in secondary root organs. 256

We next aimed to investigate how deviations in CKX2-dependent modulation of 257 CK in LRs may modulate their directional growth. CKs signaling impairs PIN-258 dependent auxin transport in main roots as well as in lateral root primordia (Marhavý 259 et al., 2011). We therefore assessed whether CKX2 activity regulates auxin transport 260 in emerged LRs. Because PIN3 is the main regulator of asymmetric auxin redistribution 261 262 in columella cells of emerged lateral roots (Rosquete et al., 2013), we initially assessed whether the ckx2 mutant shows defective abundance or localization of functional 263 pPIN3::PIN3-GFP in columella cells. At the time of GSA establishment (stage II LRs), 264 PIN3-GFP abundance and asymmetry are not detectably altered from wild-type in ckx2 265 mutants (Figure 6C and S6B). Next, we used the auxin responsive promoter DR5 fused 266 to GFP and assess whether auxin signaling is affected in ckx2 mutant LRs. In 267

accordance with proper PIN3 localization, DR5 signal intensity in columella cells and
asymmetric signal in the flanks was similar in *ckx2* mutant and wild type LRs (Figure
6D and S6C).

Overall, these data illustrate that auxin responses in gravitropic lateral roots are not detectably altered by CKX2, suggesting that CKX2 modulates angular growth by an alternative, CK-dependent mechanism in emerged LRs.

274

275 Emerged lateral roots display asymmetric cytokinin signaling

Our data indicates that CK regulates angular LR growth. To further assess the 276 mechanism by which CK modulates GSA establishment in developing LRs, we 277 visualized the spatial distribution of CK signaling using the two-component signaling 278 sensor (TCSn) transcriptionally fused to GFP (TCSn::GFP) (Liu and Müller, 2017). We 279 observed increased CK signaling on the upper side of stage II LRs, coinciding with 280 gravitropic bending (Figure 6E). This asymmetry declined in stage III LRs, which 281 maintain the previously established GSA (Figure 6E and S6D). In agreement with the 282 anticipated reduction in CK degradation, the magnitude of asymmetric CK signaling 283 was increased in cxk2 mutant LRs (Figure 6F and S6D). Conversely, asymmetric CK 284 285 signaling was reduced in the CK receptor double mutant ahk2 ahk4 (Figure 6G and S6E). These data propose that the increased magnitude of asymmetry in CK signaling 286 across the root tip correlates with reduced LR bending towards gravity. 287

To determine whether asymmetric CK signaling regulates bending specifically 288 289 in LRs, we examined the distribution of CK signaling in primary roots responding to gravity. Importantly, we did not observe asymmetric CK signaling in unstimulated or 290 gravity-stimulated primary roots (Figure S6F-G). Accordingly, we conclude that 291 asymmetric CK signaling is specific to LRs and thus contributes to the distinct 292 establishment of primary GSA in LRs. Previous work proposed a hypothetical 293 gravitropic offset component at the upper flank of LRs. This envisioned component was 294 presumably sensitive to the inhibition of auxin transport (Roychoudhry et al., 2013). To 295 assess if auxin transport similarly modulates the asymmetry of CK signaling in 296 emerged LRs, we treated seedlings with the auxin transport inhibitor 1-N-297 Naphthylphthalamic Acid (NPA). Pharmacological interference with auxin transport 298 indeed markedly decreased asymmetric CK signaling in stage II LRs, when compared 299 to the DMSO solvent control (Figure 6H and S6H), suggesting that auxin transport 300 indeed impacts asymmetric CK signaling in emerged LRs. 301

In summary, our data suggests that asymmetric CK signaling at the upper flank of LRs functions as an anti-gravitropic component in emerged LRs to promote radial root growth.

305

306 CKX2 activity determines cellular elongation in emerged lateral roots

Light sheet-based live cell imaging has revealed that cells on the upper and lower 307 flanks of emerged LRs show differential elongation for about 8-9 hours (Rosquete et 308 al., 2013). During this developmental stage II, the cellular elongation rates at the upper 309 epidermal layers is three-fold-increased compared to the lower flank (15µm/h versus 310 5µm/h) (Rosquete et al., 2013). To test if this difference can account for the primary 311 GSA establishment, we used these quantitative growth parameters to construct a 312 dynamic computational model of LR bending (Figure 7A-D and S7A-D). This model 313 incorporates cellular mechanics to simulate cell elongation using stretchable strings as 314 a manifestation of the cell wall elasticity and internal turgor pressure in the cell (see 315 method section). The anisotropic growth is simulated by extending the resting length 316 of the spring to account for 3-fold differences in the growth rates between upper and 317 lower flanks. The resulting model predicts that the incorporation of measured 318 elongation rates on the upper LR flank is able to realistically recapitulate LR bending 319 angle of wild type plants, reaching an angle of about 62-63° within 8-9 hours (Figure 320 7B and Figure S7). 321

Next, we experimentally assessed whether the loss of CKX2 or CK application 322 interferes with cell elongation in stage II LRs. In agreement with reduced LR bending, 323 the *ckx2* loss-of-function mutant, as well as wild type plants treated with BAP, showed 324 shorter cells at the upper flank of stage II LRs when compared to the respective 325 controls (Figure 7E and S7E). Our previous work revealed that differential elongation 326 is a major factor controlling LR bending (Rosquete et al., 2013). However, the loss of 327 CKX2 reduced cell elongation in average only by ten percent. To evaluate whether the 328 329 measured reduction in cell length can realize the observed quantitative changes in LR bending, we reduced cellular elongation similarly by ten percent in our computational 330 LR model. The model predicted that CKX2-dependent impact on cellular elongation 331 increases the predicted GSA of LRs within nine hours from 63° to only 68° (Figure 7C-332 D). Thus, we conclude that the impact of CKX2 on cellular elongation cannot fully 333 explain the observed reduction of LR bending in *ckx2* mutants. 334

335

336 Cytokinin-dependent interference with cell division rates defines angular growth

337 of lateral roots

In primary roots, CK reduces not only cellular elongation, but also cell proliferation by 338 distinct mechanisms (Ruzicka et al., 2007; Street et al., 2015). Moreover, our 339 computational model predicts that the rate of LR bending could be restricted by the 340 number of cells (Figure S7A-B). Thus, we tested if CK might also affect the meristem 341 of LRs. The stage II LRs of ckx2 loss-of-function mutant plants showed a significant 342 reduction of meristem size at the upper LR flank compare to wild-type Col-0 (Figure 343 7F). Similarly, BAP treatment resulted in the development of shorter meristems in stage 344 II LRs of Col-0 wild-type (Figure S7F). These data suggest that CK signaling also 345 negatively regulates meristem activity in emerged LRs. 346

We next used cell division marker *pCycB1;1::GUS*, to assess the spatial impact of CK on cell proliferation. BAP and INCYDE treatment reduced the abundance of *CycB1;1::GUS* at the upper flank of stage II LRs (Figure S7G-H). These data suggest that CK signaling does not only restrict cellular elongation, but also reduces cell proliferation in emerged LRs.

Notably, *CDKB1;1* and other cell cycle promoting genes are down-regulated in 352 the crf1,3,5,6 quadruple mutant (Raines et al., 2015). Hence, we assumed that CRF-353 354 dependent control of the cell cycle may contribute to the CK-mediated establishment of GSA in emerged LRs. To block cell cycle progression, we used the dominant 355 negative (DN) allele of CDKB1:1 and the *cdkb1:1 cdkb1:2* double mutant (Figure 7G). 356 as well as the cell cycle inhibitor Roscovitine (Figure 7H). Both genetic and 357 pharmacological interference with the cell cycle strongly interfered with the LR bending 358 (Figure 7G-H). In contrast to LRs, the gravity response kinetics in primary roots of 359 CDKB1;1^{DN} as well as *cdkb1;1 cdkb1;2* were similar to wild-type behavior (Figure S7I). 360 This suggests that not only cellular elongation (Rosquete et al., 2013), but also cell 361 proliferation in stage II LRs is a particular determinant of directional LR growth. 362

Overall, these data suggest that CK modulates both differential cell elongation and cell proliferation to interfere with growth at the upper flank of LR, ultimately regulating angular LR growth and radial expansion of the root system.

366

367 Discussion

Because root systems are hidden beneath the soil, the study and directed improvement of root architectural traits in crop breeding programs have been delayed. There is

growing interest to alleviate the harmful effects of drought stress by modulating the 370 primary GSA of LRs (Uga et al., 2013). Despite the apparent importance of the root 371 system depth, the molecular mechanisms regulating the direction of LR growth are 372 poorly understood. Thus, understanding the molecular mechanisms establishing the 373 primary angular growth in LRs could guide future engineering of plants to suit certain 374 habitats. Anticipating that natural variation could provide valuable insights on how to 375 376 sustainably engineer root systems, we focused on the primary growth direction of 377 lateral roots in natural Arabidopsis accessions.

We reveal that the primary growth direction of lateral roots varies substantially 378 within a population of natural Arabidopsis accessions. Primary LR angles of hypo- or 379 hyper-responsive accessions followed a similar trend regardless of whether they were 380 grown in soil, two-dimensional or three-dimensional in-vitro systems. We thus conclude 381 that this approach is suitable to assess the genetic control of angular LR growth. Using 382 a GWAS approach, we show that angular growth of lateral roots is controlled by CKX2-383 dependent metabolism of the phytohormone cytokinin. CKX2 contains a SP to enter 384 the secretory pathway, which could be crucial for its impact on CK perception. 385 However, the precise site of CK receptor activity (plasma membrane and/or 386 endoplasmic reticulum) is still under debate (Romanov et al., 2018). We conclude that 387 variation in an amino acid substitution after the predicted cleavage site impacts on SP 388 processing of CKX2, which consequently obstructs CKX2 activity in planta. Our data 389 suggest that the lack of SP processing abolishes the secretion and enzymatic activity 390 391 of CKX2, thereby contributing to CK-dependent GSA trait variation in natural 392 Arabidopsis accessions.

Nordic accessions preferentially express an inactive CKX2 variant, which 393 prompted us to investigate whether environmental cues further define the root system 394 in a CK-dependent manner. We revealed that hypoxic conditions induce more 395 horizontal LR growth through CK signaling. The increased frequency of an inactive 396 CKX2 allele in Nordic accessions suggests that the allele may have been selected for 397 in these populations, promoting more horizontal root growth. It is an intriguing 398 possibility that more horizontal, near surface roots may rectify gas exchange under 399 hypoxia conditions, potentially alleviating the harmful effects of hypoxic stress in these 400 Nordic, snow covered habitats. 401

402 Our analysis suggests that primary and secondary roots have distinct responses 403 to CK. While CK signaling abolishes PIN-dependent transport in main roots (Marhavý

et al., 2011), we showed that CKX2-dependent interference with endogenous CK 404 levels does not affect PIN3 and auxin signaling in emerged LRs. Moreover, CK 405 signaling is asymmetric in emerged lateral, but not primary roots, proposing a unique 406 role of cytokinin in regulating asymmetric growth responses in LRs. Also abscisic acid 407 signaling displays distinct activities in main and lateral root organs, presumably 408 allowing distinct organ growth rates in response to environmental stresses (Ding and 409 410 De Smet, 2013). Thus, we propose that hormone signaling might be generally co-opted in primary and secondary roots to facilitate different growth responses to the 411 environment. 412

The increase and decrease of cytokinin levels have been shown to slightly 413 accelerate the rate of gravitropic bending in primary root, but the developmental 414 importance of this effect remains uncertain (Pernisova et al., 2016). In contrast, we 415 show here that CK signaling plays a developmental role in establishing the primary 416 GSA of LRs. Moreover, an increase and decrease of CK signaling correlate with 417 reduced and enhanced down-ward bending of LRs, respectively. Mechanistically, we 418 showed that CK signaling interferes with cellular elongation and proliferation in 419 emerged LR to reduce LR organ bending towards gravity. These stage II LRs undergo 420 a de novo formation of the elongation zone (Rosquete et al., 2013). During this 421 developmental time window, the CK-dependent reduction in cell proliferation could 422 have hence an immediate influence on the number of elongating cells. Such an impact 423 could further compromise angular LR growth, because our computational model 424 predicted that an asymmetric reduction in cell number (at the upper root flank) would 425 induce mechanical constraints, additionally limiting organ bending (Figure S7C-D). 426 However, such detailed mechanical constraint measurements in LRs await 427 experimental validation. 428

We illustrate that CKX2 contributes to the rate of asymmetric CK signaling, but 429 CKX2 expression did not show a pronounced asymmetry. Similarly, the CK response 430 431 factors CRF2 and CRF3 are not asymmetrically expressed in emerged lateral roots. Thus, the molecular mechanism by which asymmetric CK signalling across the LR tip 432 is established remains to be elucidated. Our work proposes that an auxin transport 433 mechanism promotes the asymmetry of CK signaling. Accordingly, auxin could 434 generate an anti-gravitropic signal to interfere with its own gravitropic impact in LRs. 435 Unlike auxin, the mechanisms of intercellular cytokinin transport are poorly 436 437 characterized (Kang et al., 2017). One intriguing possibility is however that the

asymmetric auxin signal could favor CK relocation towards the upper side of LRs,
inducing differential CK signalling and growth repression on this side. However, it is
also possible that differential CK signaling occurs at the level of signal integration and
might be independent of differential distribution of CK. Future work will examine these
possibilities to uncover the mechanism by which CKX2 is linked to differential cytokinin
activity across a stage II LR.

444 In conclusion, our genetic screen uncovered that directional LR growth depends on opposing gravitropic and anti-gravitropic phytohormonal cues (Figure S7J). We 445 conclude that CK signaling reduces growth at the upper organ side, which counteracts 446 the gravity induced, auxin-dependent reduction in cell expansion at the lower root flank. 447 In this way, a CK-dependent mechanism allows the root system to override the 448 gravitropic response and radially explore its surroundings. Genetic interference with 449 CK signaling cannot only be used to define the primary growth direction of LRs, but 450 moreover may refract certain environmental input to root architecture. Overall, these 451 results propose that directed interference with CK responses in LRs could be used to 452 engineer root system depth to better suit certain habitats. 453

454

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470

471 Author contributions

S.W. performed most experiments. M.R.R. initiated the project. M.S., E.S. and K.D.

- performed confocal microscopy. H.L., T.L.R. and J.R.D. contributed GLO-Roots data.
- I.P. and O.N. conducted quantification of endogenous cytokinins. S.M. and R.S.
- 475 performed hypoxia experiments K.W. designed and described the dynamic computer
- model simulation. J.K.-V. devised and coordinated the project. S.W. and J.K.-V. wrote
- the manuscript. All authors saw and commented on the manuscript.
- 478

479 **Competing interests**

- 480 The authors declare no competing financial interests.
- 481

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650 Figure Legends

651

Figure 1. Natural variation of the primary GSA of lateral roots in Arabidopsis
 thaliana.

(A) Geographical distribution of natural *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions used in thisstudy.

(B) Mean gravitropic set point angle (GSA) values are normalized to reference
 accession Col-0. Three representative hyper- (blue colours) and hypo-responsive (red

- colours) accessions were selected for further analysis.
- 659 (C) Representative images and GSA distributions of hyper- and hypo-responsive
- accessions grown on 2D agar plates. n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per

661 plate), Scale bars, 20 mm.

(D) GSA distribution of hyper- and hypo-responsive accessions grown in 3D agar
 cylinders. n = 5 cylinders (20-40 LRs per cylinder).

- (E) GSA distribution of hyper- and hypo-responsive accessions grown in soil. n = 5-10
- 665 plants (20-40 LRs per plant).
- 666 (C)-(D) Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001
- (compared to Col-0). Mean ± SEM. Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- Figure 2. Genome-wide association study (GWAS) on gravitropic set point angle(GSA).
- (A) Manhattan plot of GWAS results. The dotted horizontal line indicates a significance
- level of 0.1 after Bonferroni correction for multiple testing.
- (B) Magnification of the peak region on chromosome 2. A highly significant SNP was
- located at position 8,447,233 in the coding region of *CKX2*.
- (C) Mean GSA of T and G allele of CKX2. Horizontal lines show the medians; box limits
- 676 indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; whiskers extend to the min and max values. 677 Student's t-test p-value: *** P < 0.001.
- (D)-(G) Representative images and GSA distributions of untreated and 6-Benzylaminopurin (BAP)-treated Col-0 wild type (D), Col-0 wild type, *ahk2 ahk3*, *ahk2 ahk4* and *ahk3 ahk4* (E), untreated and INCYDE-treated Col-0 wild type (F), Col-0 wild type, *ckx2-1* and CKX2^{OX} seedlings (G). Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001 (compared to DMSO solvent or Col-0 wild type control). Mean \pm SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per plate). Scale bars, 2
- 684 mm.
- 685 (D)-(G) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 686

Figure 3. Characterization of Cytokinin Response Factors (CRFs) in lateral roots.

- (A) Representative images of pCRF2::GFP/GUS and pCRF3::GFP/GUS in stage I III
- 689 LRs. Scale bar, 25 μM.
- (B) Representative images and GSA distribution of Col-0 wild type, crf mutants and
- 691 CRF^{OX} lines. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: *** P < 0.001 (compared to DMSO
- or Col-0, respectively). Mean ± SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 80-100 LRs per
 plate). Scale bars, 2 mm.
- 694 (A)-(B) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 695

Figure 4. Cytokinin signalling integrates environmental signals into angular
 lateral root growth.

(A) Comparison of the mean GSA distribution and its geographical (latitude)
 distribution of the phenotyped accessions. T and G allele of CKX2 are depicted in blue
 and green, respectively.

- (B) Relative geographical distribution (color coded by yellow (low) to red (high number))
- of the T and G allele of CKX2 in all sequenced Swedish Arabidopsis accessions.
- (C)-(D) Representative images and GSA distributions of (C) Col-0 wild-type and *ckx2*-
- 1 or (D) Col-0 wild type and ahk2 ahk4 with and without hypoxia treatment for 4h. Scale
- bars, 2 mm. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: *** P < 0.001 (compared to DMSO
- solvent or Col-0 wild type control). Mean \pm SEM., n = 4 plates (10 seedlings with 80-
- 100 LRs per plate). Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 708

Figure 5. Signal Peptide processing is required for CKX2 activity.

- (A) Localization of GFP-^{SP}CKX2^I-mScarlet and GFP-^{SP}CKX2^M-mScarlet in stage II
 LRs. Scale bar, 25 µm and 10 µm, respectively.
- (B) Quantification of the co-localization of GFP and mScarlet signal using Pearson's correlation. Horizontal lines show the medians; box limits indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; whiskers extend to the min and max values. Student's t-test P-Value: *** P < 0.001, n = 10-15 individual LRs.
- (C) Immunoblot analysis and quantification of ${}^{SP}CKX2^{I}$ and ${}^{SP}CKX2^{M}$ expressed in *N. tabacum* leaves using anti-GFP antibody. Anti-tubulin antibody was used as loading control. The signal of GFP-SP was quantified and normalized to tubulin. Student's t-test P-Value: *** P < 0.001. Mean ± SEM, n = 8 biological replicates.
- (D) Saturation curves of isopentenyladenine (iP) degradation by CKX2. Reactions were performed at pH 7.4 in McIlvaine buffer with 0.5 mM DCIP as electron acceptor (- \bullet - ^{SP}CKX2^I, - \Box - ^{SP}CKX2^M, - \blacktriangle - ^{-SP}CKX2^I, - \diamond - ^{-SP}CKX2^M). Mean ± SEM, n= 8.
- (E) GSA distributions of ckx2-1 was complemented by CKX2::CKX2I, but not by
 CKX2::CKX2M. Representative lines are shown. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-value: ***
 P < 0.001 (compared to Col-0). Mean ± SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160
- 726 LRs per plate).
- 727 (A)-(E) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 728
- Figure 6. CKX2 modulates assymmetric cytokinin signalling in emerged lateral
 roots.

- (A) Representative images of pCKX2::CKX2-mTurquoise in stage I III LRs.
 Propidium Iodide (PI) was used for counterstaining. Scale bar, 25 µm.
- (B) qPCR analysis detecting the levels of *CKX2* transcript in the root tip and LRs stage
- ⁷³⁴ I-III normalized against UBQ5 and EIF4. Bars represent means ± SD, n = 3.
- (C)-(D) Representative images and signal quantification of stage II LRs of (C)
 PIN3::PIN3-GFP, and (D) DR5::GFP in Col-0 wild type and *ckx2-1* mutant background.
 Horizontal lines show the medians; box limits indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles;
 whiskers extend to the min and max values, n = 10-15 individual LRs. White dotted
 lines outline lateral root cap cells (facing the columella cells) for quantification. Scale
 bars, 10 µm.
- (E) Representative image (stage II) and quantification of TCSn::GFP in stages I III
- T42 LRs. PI was used for counterstaining. Scale bar, 50 μ m.
- 743 (F)-(G) Representative images and quantification of stage II LRs of (F) TCSn::GFP in
- wild type and *ckx2-1*, (G) TCSn::GFP in wild type and *ahk2 ahk4* or (D) after treatment
- with DMSO or 1 μ M NPA for 24h. Scale bars, 10 μ m. One-way ANOVA P-values: * P
- 746 < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001. Horizontal lines show the medians; box limits indicate</p>
- the 25th and 75th percentiles; whiskers extend to the min and max values, n = 10-15
 individual LRs.
- 749 (A)-(G) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 750

Figure 7. Cytokinin-dependent interference with cell cycle defines angular growth of lateral roots.

- (A) Sketch shows a simplified geometry of lateral root (LR), representing the root tip
 and the elongation zone. The cell elongation rate (visualized as red spot inside the cell)
 gradually increases from lower towards the upper side of the LR (~ 3-fold) based on
 estimates derived from previous work (Rosquete et al., 2013). Bottom panel, color
 coding bar for cell elongation rates.
- (B) Time-lapse model simulations, considering 9 elongating cells establishing LR
 bending (63°) after approximately 9h.
- (C) left control panel (corresponds to (B)) is compared to right panel showing a 10%
 decrease in elongation rate on the upper root flank. Each simulation represents LR
 status after 8h of dynamic elongation.
- (D) Time evolution of set-point angle corresponding to (C), color of curves matchessimulation with the color bar shown in (C).

- 765 (E)-(F) Representative image and quantification of (E) first two elongated cells of lateral
- roots in stages II and (F) lateral root meristem. One-way ANOVA P-values: ** P < 0.01,
- ⁷⁶⁷ *** P < 0.001. Horizontal lines show the medians; box limits indicate the 25th and 75th
- percentiles; whiskers extend to the min and max values, n = 10-15 individual LRs.
- 769 Scale bar, 10 μm.
- (G)-(H) Representative images and GSA distributions of (D) Col-0 wild-type, CDKB1;1
- DN (dominat negative) and cdkb1;1 cdkb1;2 or (E) Roscovitine treated Col-0 wild-type
- seedlings. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001 (compared to
- Col-0). Mean ± SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 60-80 LRs per plate). Scale bars,
- 774 2 mm.
- (E)-(H) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 776

777 Material and methods

778 KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		L
GFP antibody	abcam	ab290
IRDye 800CW anti-mouse	LI-COR	#926-32210
IRDye 800 CW anti-rabbit	LI-COR	#926-32211
Tubulin antibody	Sigma	T6074
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
Agrobacterium tumefaciens GV3101	N/A	N/A
Escherichia coli DH10	N/A	N/A
Escherichia coli BL21	N/A	N/A
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
2,6-dichlorophenol indophenol (DCPIP)	Sigma	119814
2-chloro-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)aminopurine (INCYDE)	(Zatloukal et al., 2008)	N/A
2x Takyon for SYBR Assay – no ROX	Eurogentec	UF-NSMT-B0710
4-aminophenol	Sigma	A71328
6-Benzylaminopurin (BAP)	Sigma	13151
D-luciferin	Biosynth	L8282
DMSO	Duchefa	D1370
Gibson Assembly Master Mix	NEB	E2611L
Glutathione Sepharose 4B	GE Healthcare	17-0756-01
GlycoBlue	Thermo Fisher	AM9515
GST- ^{SP} CKX2 ^I	This Paper	N/A
GST- ^{SP} CKX2 ^M	This Paper	N/A
GST- ^{-SP} CKX2 ^I	This Paper	N/A
GST- ^{-sP} CKX2 [™]	This Paper	N/A
Murashige and Skoog medium	Duchefa	M0221.0050
N6-(2-Isopentenyl)Adenine (iP)	Sigma/Olchemim	D5912/030161
Protease Inhibitor Cocktail	Roche	11836170001
RNALater	Thermo Fisher	AM7070
SuperScript II	Thermo Fisher	18064014
trans-Zeatin (tZ)	Olchemim	0010301

Trizol	Sigma	93289
Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase	NEB	M0491M
X-Gluc	Carl Roth	0018.3
Deposited Data		
GWAS data	This paper	
GWAS data	This paper	https://gwas.gmi.
		oeaw.ac.at/#/ana
		lysis/12722/overv
		iew
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Arabidopsis: WT Col-0	N/A	N/A
Arabidopsis accessions listed in Table S1	GMI Vienna	See Table S1
Arabidopsis: ahk2-5	(Riefler, 2006)	SAIL 575 E05
Arabidopsis: ahk3-7	(Riefler, 2006)	GK 105 E02
Arabidopsis: ahk4 (cre1-2)	(Inoue et al., 2001)	N/A
Arabidopsis: ahk2-5 ahk3-7	(Riefler, 2006)	See above
Arabidopsis: ahk2-5 ahk4	(Riefler, 2006)	See above
Arabidopsis: ahk3-7 ahk4	(Riefler, 2006)	See above
elifeArabidopsis: arr3	(To et al., 2004)	CS25265
Arabidopsis: pARR3::GUS	(To et al., 2004)	CS25259
Arabidopsis: privite: 500 Arabidopsis: arr4	(To et al., 2004)	CS26266
Arabidopsis: pARR4::GUS	(To et al., 2004)	CS25260
Arabidopsis: CDKB1;1 DN	(Boudolf, 2004)	N/A
Arabidopsis: cdkb1;1 cdkb1;2	(Xie et al., 2010)	
Arabidopsis: $cakb 1; 1 cakb 1; 2$	(Xie et al., 2010)	SALK_073457, SALK_133560
		(CS66145)
Arabidopsis: 35S::CKX1	(Werner, 2003)	N/A
Arabidopsis: 555CKX1 Arabidopsis: ckx2-1	(Bartrina et al., 2011)	SALK 068485
Arabidopsis: 35S::CKX2	,	N/A
	(Werner, 2003)	
Arabidopsis: ckx3-1	(Bartrina et al., 2011)	SALK 050938
Arabidopsis: 35S::CKX3	(Werner, 2003)	N/A
Arabidopsis: ckx2-1 + pCKX2::CKX2 ¹	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: ckx2-1 + pCKX2::CKX2 ^M	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: Col-0 + pCKX2::CKX2	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: Col-0 + pCKX2::CKX2 [™]	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: Col-0 + 35S::GFP-CKX2 ¹ -mScarlet	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: Col-0 + 35S::GFP-CKX2 ^M -mScarlet	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: Col-0 + pCKX2::CKX2 [™] -mTurquoise	This paper	N/A
Arabidopsis: crf2-1	(Šimášková et al., 2015)	SAIL_33_E04C1
Arabidopsis: crf2-2	(Šimášková et al.,	SAIL_371_D04
Archidonaia, art? 1	2015)	
Arabidopsis: crf3-1	(Šimášková et al., 2015)	SAIL 240 H09
Arabidopsis: crf3-2	(Šimášková et al., 2015)	SAIL_325_H03
Arabidopsis: RPS5a::CRF2	(Šimášková et al., 2015)	N/A
Arabidopsis: 35S::CRF3	(Šimášková et al., 2015)	N/A
Arabidopsis: pCRF2::GFP/GUS	(Jeon et al., 2016)	N/A
Arabidopsis: pCRF3::GFP/GUS	(Jeon et al., 2016)	N/A
Arabidopsis: pCYCB1::GUS	(Ferreira et al., 1994)	N/A
Arabidopsis: pDR5::GFP	(Friml et al., 2003)	N/A

Arabidopsis: pPIN3::PIN3-GFP	(loio et al., 2008; Zadnikova et al., 2010)	N/A	
Arabidopsis: TCSn::GFP	(Liu and Müller, 2017)	N/A	
Arabidopsis: TCSn::GFP ahk2 ahk4	(Pernisova et al., 2018)	N/A	
Arabidopsis: TCSn::GFP ckx2-1	This paper	N/A	
Arabidopsis: pUBQ10::LUC2o	(Rellán-Álvarez et al., N/A 2015)		
Brassica napus L.: Berny	Saatzucht Donau	N/A	
Brassica napus L.: Harvey	Saatzucht Donau	Saatzucht Donau N/A	
Brassica napus L.: Jermey	Saatzucht Donau N/A		
Brassica napus L.: Randy	Saatzucht Donau N/A		
Oligonucleotides			
Primer listed in Table S2	Thermo Fisher Scientific	N/A	
Recombinant DNA			
Plasmid: pGEX- ^{SP} CKX2 ^l	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pGEX- ^{-SP} CKX2 ^l	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pGEX- ^{sp} CKX2 [™]	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pGEX- ^{-SP} CKX2 ^M	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pPLV03-pCKX2::CKX2 ¹ -mTurquoise	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pPLV03-pCKX2::CKX2	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pPLV03-pCKX2::CKX2 [™]	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pPLV03-35S::GFP-CKX2 ¹ -mScarlet	This paper	N/A	
Plasmid: pPLV03-35S::GFP-CKX2 ^M -mScarlet	This paper	N/A	
Software and Algorithms			
GWAS software	(Seren et al., 2012)	www.gwas.gmi.oeaw .ac.at	
ImageJ/Fiji	N/A	https://fiji.sc/	
Image Studio Software	LI-COR	https://www.licor.co m/bio/products/softw are/image_studio/	
LAS AF Lite	Leica	N/A	
L-Studio 4.0	Karwowski, R.	N/A	
Prism7	GraphPad	www.graphpad.com	
R package ggplot2	(Wickham, 2016)	https://CRAN.R- project.org/ package=ggplot2	
Other			
Black Boxes	Plastic-Mart	R121812A	

779

- 780 Plant material and growth conditions
- Seeds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions were kindly provided by Magnus Nordborg
 and Wolfgang Busch. A list of all lines used can be found in Supporting Information,
 Table S1. Seeds of *Brassica napus* L. were kindly provided by Saatzucht Donau.
 Seeds were surface sterilized, stratified at 4°C for 2 days in the dark. Seedlings were
 grown vertically on half Murashige and Skoog medium (1/2 MS salts (Duchefa), pH
 5.9, 1% sucrose, and 0.8% agar). Plants were grown under long-day (16 h light/8 h
 dark) conditions at 20–22°C.

7	0	0
1	٥	0

Chemicals and Treatments 789

N⁶-(2-6-Benzylaminopurin (Sigma), trans-Zeatin (tZ) (OlChemim), 790 (BAP) Isopentenyl)Adenine (iP) (OIChemim) were all dissolved in DMSO (Duchefa). 2-chloro-791 6-(3-methoxyphenyl)aminopurine (INCYDE) was synthesized in by the Laboratory of 792 Growth Regulators, Palacký University & Institute of Experimental Botany AS CR 793 (Olomouc, Czech Republic) as previously described (Zatloukal et al., 2008) and 794 dissolved in DMSO. Treatments with BAP, tZ, iP and INCYDE were all performed on 795 7 day old seedlings (transferred to supplemented media). 796

- GUS stainings were performed after 24h and initial GSA measurements 7 days after 797 transfer. 798
- 799

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) 800

To identify the genetic basis of the for the GSA of LRs we carried out a GWAS using 801 an accelerated mixed model (AMM) (Seren et al., 2012). The GWAS results can be

- viewed interactively online: https://gwas.gmi.oeaw.ac.at/#/analysis/12722/overview. 803
- 804

802

GLO-Roots 805

Rhizotrons 806

The basic rhizotron design was as described in (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015). To adapt 807 the rhizotrons for use in an automated rhizotron handling system (designed by Modular 808 Science, San Francisco), several modifications were implemented. The top edge of 809 each rhizotron sheet was beveled using a belt sander to facilitate automated watering. 810 Two 1/16" thin aluminium hooks used for automatic handling of the rhizotron were 811 attached on each side of the rhizotron. To reduce light exposure of the root system 812 during growth, a 1/8" thin black acrylic rhizotron top shield was installed. 813

814

815 Boxes and holders

Black 12" W x 18" L x 12" H boxes (Plastic-Mart) were used to grow plants in 12 816 rhizotrons at a time. The arrangement of 1/8"-thin black acrylic sheets of different 817 shapes and sizes formed 12 light-proof chambers to make sure that the roots of every 818 819 rhizotron were shielded from light even when one rhizotron was removed for imaging. Rhizotron preparation 820

821 Rhizotron preparation was as described in (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015) with slight 822 modifications required by the new rhizotron design.

823

824 Plant growth in rhizotrons

Two transfer pipettes (each ~2ml) of quick-releasing fertilizer (Peter's 20-20-20) were 825 added to each rhizotron after assembly. Assembled rhizotrons were placed into a box 826 827 with water and allowed to absorb water overnight from the bottom side. Seeds containing the pUBQ10:LUC20 transgene were stratified for 2 days at 4°C in distilled 828 water and 3 seeds were sown in the center of each rhizotron. Each rhizotron was 829 equipped with a unique barcode. All rhizotrons were sprayed down with water and 830 sealed with a transparent lid and packing tape. Plants were grown at 22/18°C 831 (day/night) under long-day conditions (16h light, 8h dark) using LED lights (Vayola, C-832 Series, N12 spectrum) with a light intensity of about 130 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹. After 2 days, the 833 transparent lid was unsealed, rhizotrons were watered with 2 transferring pipettes of 834 water, and the lid left loose for an additional day. After removing the lid, rhizotrons were 835 watered twice per day with 2 transferring pipettes of water each time until 9 days after 836 sowing. Plant imaging: 837

20 days after sowing, the automated rhizotron handling system (designed by Modular
Science, San Francisco) added 50ml of 300µM D-luciferin (Biosynth) at the top of each
rhizotron and loaded the rhizotron into a fixed stage that was controlled by a Lambda
10-3 optical filter changer (Sutter Instruments, Novato, CA) in the GLO1 imaging
system (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015). 5-min exposures were taken per rhizotron side.

A shoot image was taken right after the four root images using an ids UI-359xLE-C camera with a Fujinon C-Mount 8-80mm Varifocal lens that was installed in GLO1. Three LED strips on each side of the camera were switched on before a shoot image was taken.

847

848 Image preparation:

Image preparation was similar to in (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015): four individual root images were collected: top front, bottom front, top back, and bottom back. Using an automated ImageJ macro, a composite image was generated as follows: (1) images were rotated and translated to control for small misalignments between the two cameras; (2) the top and bottom images of each side were merged; (3) the back image was flipped horizontally; (4) the front and back images were combined using the maximum values. The final images produced were 16-bit in depth and 4096 × 2048
pixels. The scale of the images was 138.6 pixels per cm.

857

858 Hypoxia Treatment

All following treatments were performed in air-tight glass desiccators in which 859 seedlings grown on vertical agar plates were carefully placed with the lids removed. 860 861 Seedlings were exposed to a hypoxia treatment by flushing the desiccators with humidified 100% N₂ gas (2l/min) for 4 hours (13.00-17.00h) in the dark to limit 862 photosynthesis derived oxygen production. For the controls, desiccators were flushed 863 with humidified air. Flow rates were controlled by mass flow controllers (MASS-VIEW, 864 Bronkhorst). At the end of the hypoxia treatment, plates were carefully removed from 865 the desiccators, closed, and transferred back to the climate chamber. The plates 866 remained in the climate chambers under control growth conditions for 5 days after the 867 treatment after which they were scanned using an EPSON Scanner V300. 868

869

870 DNA constructs

The promoter region and full-length CKX2¹ or coding DNA sequence (CDS) were 871 amplified by PCR (Table S2) from genomic DNA or cDNA using Q5 High-Fidelity DNA 872 Polymerase (NEB) and cloned either alone or under of the 35S promoter together with 873 GFP and mScarlet-i into pPLV03 or pGEX5x3 using Gibson Assembly (NEB). 874 Subsequently, this plasmid were used for *in vitro* mutagenesis (Table S2) to obtain 875 CKX2^M. The resulting constructs were transformed into Col-0 and ckx2-1 plants using 876 the floral dipping method (Clough and Bent, 1998) or for transient transformation in 877 tobacco plants. 878

879

880 Expression, Purification and Activity Measurement of Recombinant Proteins

Recombinant proteins were expressed as GST fusion proteins and in *Escherichia coli*BL21 codon plus strain. Proteins were purified using the Sepharose beads affinity
method (Glutathione Sepharose 4B; GE Healthcare).

The activity was measured using a modified end-point method previously described (Frébort et al., 2002). For activity screening, the samples were incubated in a reaction mixture (total volume of 600 μ l) that consisted of 200 mM McIlvaine buffer (100 mM citric acid and 200 mM Na₂HPO₄) pH 7.4, 500 μ M 2,6-dichlorophenol indophenol (DCPIP; Sigma) as electron acceptor and different concentrations of N⁶-(2-

isopentenyl)adenine (iP; Sigma) as substrate. The volume of the enzyme sample used 889 for the assay was adjusted based on the enzyme activity. The incubation time at 37 °C 890 was 1h. The enzymatic reaction was stopped after incubation by adding 300 µl of 40% 891 trichloroacetic acid (TCA), then 200 µl 2% 4-aminophenol (Sigma) (in 6% TCA) was 892 added and the sample was centrifuged at 13,200 rpm for 5 min to remove protein 893 precipitate. 200 µl supernatant was used to measure the absorption spectrum from 894 352 nm to 500 nm to determine the concentration of produced Schiff base with 895 ϵ 352=15.2 mM⁻¹cm⁻¹ using a plate reader. 896

897

898 Microscopy

Confocal microscopy was performed using a Leica SP5 (Leica). Fluorescence signals for GFP (excitation 488 nm, emission peak 509 nm), mScarlet-i (excitation 561 nm, emission peak 607 nm) and propidium iodide (PI) staining (excitation 569 nm, emission peak 593 nm) were detected with a 40x or 63x (water immersion) objective. Image processing was performed using LAS AF lite software (Leica). Graphpad Prism software was used to evaluate the statistical significance of the differences observed between control and treated groups (One-way ANOVA).

906

907 Gravitropic Set-Point Angle Measurements

Plates with 14-day-old seedlings were scanned and the initial gravitropic set-point 908 angle (iGSA) of individual LRs was measured with reference to the gravity vector 909 (Rosquete et al., 2013) using Image J software. Individual GSA values were then 910 sorted into 8 categories: 0°-30°, 31°-50°, 51°-70°, 71°-90°, 91°-110°, 111°-180°. 911 Percentages of incidence were calculated for each category and graphs of GSA 912 distribution were generated. The test of Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS-test) was used 913 online (http://www.physics.csbsju.edu/stats/KS-test.n.plot form.html) to statistically 914 evaluate the GSA data sets generated from mutants and treated seedlings in 915 916 comparison to wild type and untreated controls, respectively.

917

918 Histochemical GUS Staining

919 GUS histochemical staining of acetone-fixed 7-day-old seedlings containing 920 pCycB1::GUS fusion constructs followed a previously described method (Crone et al., 921 2001) using x-Gluc (Carl Roth) as substrate. Examination of stained seedlings and 922 image acquisition were performed with a light microscope (Zeiss Observer D1) equipped with a DFC 300 FX camera (Zeiss). Graphpad Prism software was used to
evaluate the statistical significance of the differences observed between control and
treated groups (One-way ANOVA).

926

927 Transient Transformation, Protein Extraction and Immunoblot Analysis

The Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain GV3101 was transformed with the respective 928 construct and grown for 2 d at 28°C in 5 ml Luria-Bertani (LB). The preculture was 929 used to inoculate 25 ml LB and incubated for 4 h at 28°C. Cells were pelleted and 930 resuspended in 30 ml LB supplemented with 100 µM acetosyringone. After 2 h, cells 931 were resuspended in 30 ml of 5% sucrose and infiltrated in tobacco (Nicotiana 932 tabacum) leaves. Subcellular localization was examined 3 d after transformation by 933 confocal laser scanning microscopy (see above) or leaves were ground to fine powder 934 in liquid nitrogen and solubilized with extraction buffer (25 mM TRIS, pH 7.5, 10 mM 935 MgCl₂, 15 mM EGTA, 75 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 0.1% Tween20, with freshly added 936 proteinase inhibitor cocktail (Roche)). Protein concentration was assessed using the 937 Bradford method. Membranes were probed with a 1:1,000 dilution of GFP antibody 938 (abcam) or 1:20,000 of tubulin antibody (Sigma). Goat IRDye 800CW anti-mouse (LI-939 COR) or goat IRDye 800 CW anti-rabbit (LI-COR) was used (1:20,000) as secondary. 940 The signals were detected and quantified using the Odyssey Imagine System (LI-941 COR). 942

943

944 RNA Extraction, cDNA Synthesis and Quantitative PCR

RNA was extraction was describe previously (Hofmann et al., 2019). In brief: A pool of 945 10 lateral roots or root tips were collected in 30 µl of 100% RNAlater (Thermo Fisher) 946 and 500 µl of TRIzol (Sigma) was added followed by brief vortexing (2 × for 2 s each) 947 and incubating at 60°C for 30 min. 100 µl of chloroform was added, and then, samples 948 were vortexed briefly (2 × for two seconds each) and incubated at room temperature 949 950 for three minutes. After centrifugation at 12,000g for 15 min at 4°C, the aqueous phase was transferred to a new LoBind tube. To precipitate the RNA, an equal volume of 951 isopropanol and 1.5 µl of GlycoBlue (Thermo Fisher) was added followed by a - 20°C 952 incubation for 15–18 h and centrifugation at > 20,000 g for 30 min at 4°C. After removal 953 954 of the supernatant, the pellet was washed by adding 500 µl of 75% ethanol, vortexing briefly and then centrifuged at > 20,000 g for 15 min at 4°C. The 75% ethanol wash 955 956 step was repeated 1 ×. As much ethanol as possible was removed followed by the

drying of the pellet by letting the Eppendorf tube sit on ice with lid open for 10 min. 957 Precipitated RNA was then resuspended with 5–12 µl of nuclease-free water, stored 958 at - 80°C. cDNA synthesis was performed using SuperScript II (Thermo Fisher) and 959 qPCR using 2x Takyon for SYBR Assay - no ROX (Eurogentec) following the 960 manufactures instructions on a CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-961 Rad). Expression values were normalized to the expression of ubiquitin 5 (UBQ5) and 962 963 translation initiation factor EIF4A.

964

Cytokinin Measurements 965

Quantification of cytokinin metabolites was performed according to the method 966 described by (Svačinová et al., 2012), including modifications described in (Antoniadi 967 et al., 2015). Briefly, samples (20 mg FW) were extracted in 1 ml of modified Bieleski 968 buffer (Hoyerová et al., 2006) together with a cocktail of stable isotope-labeled internal 969 standards used as a reference (0.25 pmol of CK bases, ribosides, N-glucosides, and 970 0.5 pmol of CK O-glucosides, nucleotides per sample added). The extracts were 971 purified using the Oasis MCX column (30 mg/1 ml, Waters) and cytokinin levels were 972 determined using the LC-MS/MS system consisting of an ACQUITY UPLC System and 973 a Xevo TQ-S triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Waters). Results are presented as 974 the average of five biological replicates ± standard deviation in pmol/g FW. Statistical 975 examinations were made between Col-0 wild type and ckx2-1 roots using two-way 976 977 ANOVA analysis.

978

979 Description of the computer model of LR

For the sake of simplicity, our model is composed of a rectangular grid in which each 980 box represents a single cell. Cell walls are modelled as a linear elastic spring 981 (connecting 2 adjacent vertices) that can expand and contract in order to minimize 982 forces acting on each spring. The magnitude of force exerted by this spring is 983 $k_x \cdot (L_{uv} - p_u - p_v)$ and is positive for spring compression. The k_x characterizes the 984 stiffness of the spring and was set to 0.9 in all simulations. This force is in the direction 985 of the spring $\frac{p_u - p_v}{p_u - p_v}$. p_u is the position of vertex *u*, and p_v is the position of neighbor 986 vertex v. The total force exerted on vertex u located at position p_u by all such springs 987 988

can be written as:

989
$$F_{linear}^{u} = \sum_{u \in N_{u}} k_{x} \cdot (L_{u,v} - |p_{u} - p_{v}|) \cdot \frac{p_{u} - p_{v}}{|p_{u} - p_{v}|}$$

where N_u is the set of vertices adjacent to vertex u. The norm symbol indicates the Euclidean distance between the points.

In addition to the forces acting on a vertex due to springs, a force due to the turgor pressure inside the cell (p_{const} = 0.005) acts in the direction normal to each wall (*n*):

$$_{994} \quad F_{pressure}^{u} = p_{const} \cdot \hat{n} \cdot \left| p_{u} - p_{v} \right|$$

295 Combining the individual force components, the total force acting on a vertex *u* is the 296 sum of forces acting on each cell wall and internal pressure inside the cells.

In accordance with Newton's Second Law of motion we calculated the velocity (Vel_u) and position (p_u) of vertex *u* over time for point mass $m_u = 1$ with the following formulas:

999
$$\frac{dVel_u}{dt} = \frac{F_{total}^u}{m_u} - \beta \cdot Vel_u \qquad \qquad \frac{dp_u}{dt} = Vel_u$$

1000 where β =0.2 is a damping constant.

1001 The LR root model is spatially divided into two zones (root tip and elongation zones) (Figure S9) along the x-axis based on the threshold parameter that defines distance 1002 between individual cell centers and right-most cell centers. This parameter controls the 1003 length of the elongation zone or simply the number of elongating cells in our 1004 simulations (Figure S8C-D). Along the y-axis, cells elongate at different rates based 1005 on the smooth polynomial interpolation between the minimum measured elongation 1006 rate at the bottom part of the LR (5 μ m/h) to the maximum elongation rate at the top 1007 part of the LR (15 µm/h) (Rosquete et al., 2013). Cell elongation is simulated by 1008 expanding the resting length of linear springs. 1009

1010
$$\frac{dL_{u,v}}{dt} = L_{u,v} \cdot r(d)$$

1011 Where r(d) is an interpolated growth rate and d is the relative distance from the bottom 1012 part of the LR such that $r_{min}(0) = 5 \mu m/h$ and $r_{max}(1) = 15 \mu m/h$. The geometry of the model was created using a version of the VV simulator (Smith et al., 2003; 2006) embedded in the modeling software L-studio (Karwowski) (<u>http://algorithmicbotany.org/Istudio</u>). Cell mechanics (mass-spring system) was simulated using the forward Euler method. All simulations were stopped after 8 hours of elapsed growth as observed experimentally. Screenshots from model simulations are shown in Figure S9A.

- 1019
- 1020 Supplemental Information
- 1021

Table S1. Accessions with their mean GSA distribution (compared to Col-0) used
 in this study.

- 1024
- 1025 **Table S2. Oligonucleotides used in this study.**
- 1026
- 1027 Figure S1. Representative root system images of selected accessions.
- (A) 10-day old accessions grown in 3D agar cylinders. n = 5 cylinders. Scale bars, 1cm.
- (B) 20-day old accessions grown in soil. n = 5-10 plants. Scale bars, 5 cm.
- 1031 (A)-(B) Representative images are shown. Experiments were repeated at least three1032 times.
- 1033
- Figure S2. Calculation of linkage disequilibrium by pairwise comparison of 500
 SNPs.
- r^2 value is scaled and color-coded (blue to red) from 0 to 1 (low to high association).
- 1037 Underlying code can be found at github
- 1038 https://github.com/timeu/PyGWAS/blob/master/pygwas/core/genotype.py#L59).
- 1039
- 1040 Figure S3. Influence of cytokinin on GSA of lateral roots.

(A)-(E) Quantification of different CK forms (nucleotides (precursors), ribosides
(transported forms), free bases (active forms), and O-/N-glucosides
(reversible/irreversible inactivated storage forms) in Col-0 wild type and *ckx2-1* mutant
roots. (A) iP-Types, (B) Total CKs, (C) cZ-Types, (D) DHZ-Types, (E) tZ-Types.

1045 (F)-(G), GSA distributions of DMSO and (F) trans-zeatin (tZ)-treated or (G) 1046 isopentenyladenine (iP)-treated Col-0 wild type seedlings.

- (H) Representative images and GSA distributions of four different untreated and BA treated winter oilseed rape (Brasica napus L.) genotypes.
- 1049 (A)-(E) One-way ANOVA analysis P-values: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001.
 1050 Mean ± SD, n = 5 extractions.
- 1051 (F)-(H) Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-values: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P > 0.001
- 1052 (compared to DMSO or Col-0, respectively). Mean ± SEM, for A. thaliana: n = 5 plates
- (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per plate), for oilseed rape: n = 3 seedlings with 25-50
- 1054 LRs per seedling). Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 1055

Figure S4. Role of type-A Arabidopsis response regulators (ARRs) and cytokinin response factors (CRFs) in the GSA establishment in LRs.

- (A) Expression of *ARRs* in various root tissues. Data from Brady et al., 2007.
- (B) Expression of *CRFs* in various root tissues. Data from Brady et al., 2007.
- 1060 (C) GUS staining of pARR3::GUS and pARR4::GUS. Scale bars, 25 µM.
- 1061 (D) GSA distribution of Col-0 wild-type, arr3 and arr4 mutants. Kolmogorov-Smirnov
- test. Mean ± SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per plate).
- 1063 (E) Representative images after GUS staining of pCRF2::GFP-GUS and pCRF3::GFP-
- 1064 GUS in stage I-III LRs. Scale bars, 10 µm.
- (F) Representative images of pCRF2::GFP-GUS and pCRF3::GFP-GUS in the mainroot tip. Scale bars, 25 μm.
- 1067 (G) GSA distribution of Col-0 wild type and (A) crf single mutants. Kolmogorov-Smirnov
- test P-values: *** P < 0.001 (compared to Col-0). Mean \pm SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per plate).
- 1070 (C)-(G) Experiments were repeated three times.
- 1071

1072 Figure S5. Snow cover in Sweden and characterization of CKX2^I and CKX2^M.

- 1073 (A) Average number of days with snow cover in Sweden between 1961-1990. Source:1074 https://bit.ly/2UmLAeT
- (B) Localization of GFP-^{SP}CKX2^I-mScarlet and GFP-^{SP}CKX2^M-mScarlet. Tobacco
 leaves were infiltrated with Agrobacterium tumefaciens containing constructs and the
 expression of CKX2 fluorescent protein was visualized by confocal laser scanning
 microscopy three days after infiltration. Scale bar, 25 μm. Representative images are
 shown.

- 1080 (C) GSA distributions of Col-0 and *ckx2-1* as well as $CKX2^{I}$ and $CKX2^{M}$ expressing 1081 lines in both backgrounds. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test P-value: *** P < 0.001 (compared 1082 to Col-0). Mean ± SEM, n = 5 plates (16 seedlings with 100-160 LRs per plate).
- 1083 (B)-(C) Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 1084

1085 Figure S6. Localization of CKX2 in the main root tip and characterization of 1086 cytokinin responses in *ckx2-1* mutants.

- (A) Representative images of pCKX2::CKX2-mTurquoise in the main root. Propidium
 lodide (PI) was used for counterstaining. Scale bar, 25 µm.
- (B)-(C) Signal quantification of (B) PIN3::PIN3-GFP and (C) DR5::GFP in stage II LRs.
- 1090 (D)-(E) Representative images and quantifications of (A) TCSn::GFP in Col-0 wild type
- and *ckx2-1*, (B) TCSn::GFP in Col-0 wild type and *ahk2 ahk4* in stage I III LRs. Scale
 bar, 10 μm.
- (F) Signal quantification of TCSn::GFP in the main root after gravity stimulation.
- (G) Signal quantification of DR5::GFP in the main root after gravity stimulation (positivecontrol for (F).
- 1096 (H) Representative images and quantifications of TCSn::GFP in Col-0 wild type after 1097 treatment with DMSO or 1 μ M NPA for 24h in stage I – III LRs. Scale bar, 10 μ m.
- 1098 (D)-(H) One-way ANOVA P-values: * P < 0.05, ** P< 0.01, *** P< 0.001. Horizontal 1099 lines show the medians; box limits indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; whiskers 1100 extend to the min and max values. n = 10-15 individual LRs or main roots.
- 1101 (A)-(H)Experiments were repeated at least three times.
- 1102

1103 Figure S7. Cytokinin-dependent interference with cell division rates defines 1104 angular growth of lateral roots.

- (A) Computer simulations displaying that the number of elongating cells impacts on
- 1106 GSA angle in the proportional manner.
- (B) Time evolution of set-point angle corresponding to (A).
- (C) Decreasing number of elongating cells on the upper half part of the LR elongation
 zone. Note the gradual increase of set-point angle with decreasing number of
 elongating cells.
- (D) Time evolution of set-point angle corresponding to (C). Colour of curves matches
 simulation with the colour bar shown in (A) and (C). Simulations represent LR status
 after 8h of dynamic elongation.

- (E)-(F) Quantification of (E) first two elongated cells of stage II lateral roots and (F)
 lateral root meristem after treatment with DMSO or 200 nM BAP for 24h.
- (G)-(H) Quantification of CycB1;1::GUS after treatment with (G) DMSO or 200 nM BAP
- 1117 or (H) DMSO or 50 nM INCYDE for 24h.
- 1118 (E)-(H) One-way ANOVA P-values: * P < 0.05, *** P < 0.001. Horizontal lines show the
- medians; box limits indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; whiskers extend to the min
- and max values. n = 10-15 individual LRs.
- (I) Kinetics of gravitropic response of dark grown Col-0, *cdkb1;1 ckdb1;2* and CDKB1;1
- 1122 DN. Mean ± SD, n = 10-15 individual roots.
- 1123 (J) Schematic model depicts spatially defined gravitropic and anti-gravitropic hormonal
- 1124 cues at opposing organ flanks. Cytokinin signalling functions as an anti-gravitropic
- 1125 growth regulator at the upper side and thereby counterbalances auxin-dependent
- 1126 gravitropic growth of lateral roots.
- 1127 (A)-(I) Experiments were repeated at least three times.

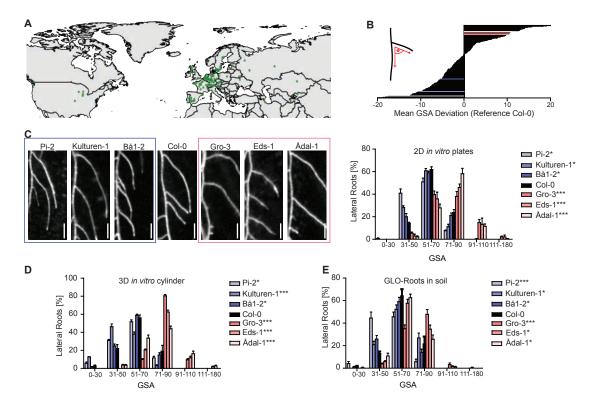


Figure 1. Natural variation of the primary GSA of lateral roots in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

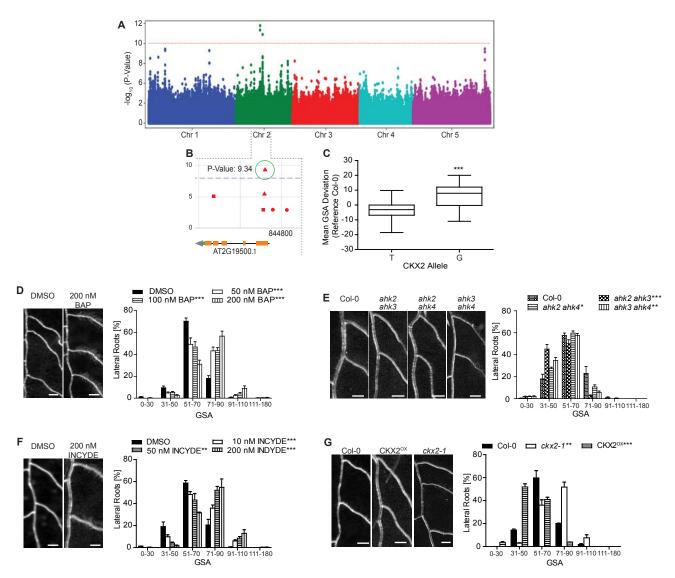


Figure 2. Genome-wide association study (GWAS) on gravitropic set point angle (GSA).

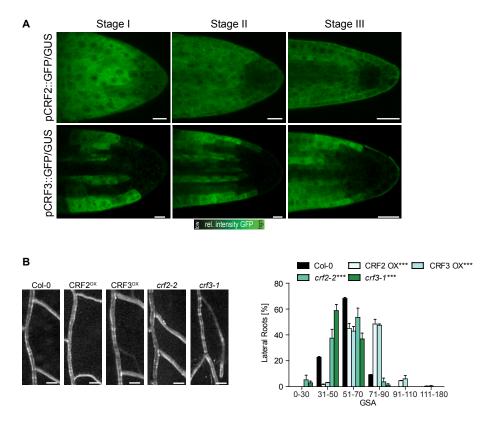


Figure 3. Characterization of Cytokinin Response Factors (CRFs) in lateral roots.

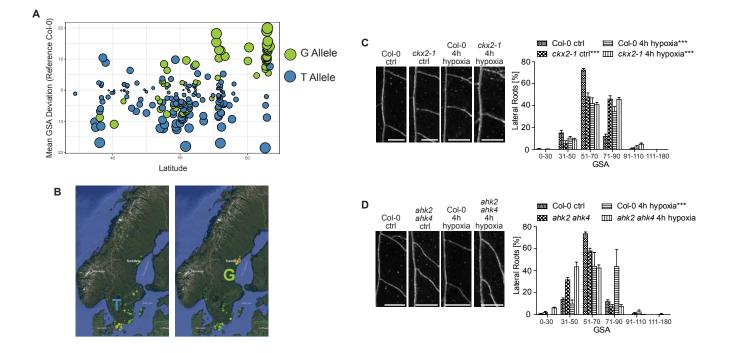


Figure 4. Cytokinin signalling integrates environmental signals into angular lateral root growth.

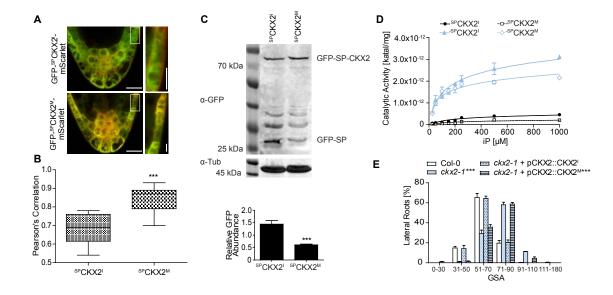


Figure 5. Signal Peptide processing is required for CKX2 activity.

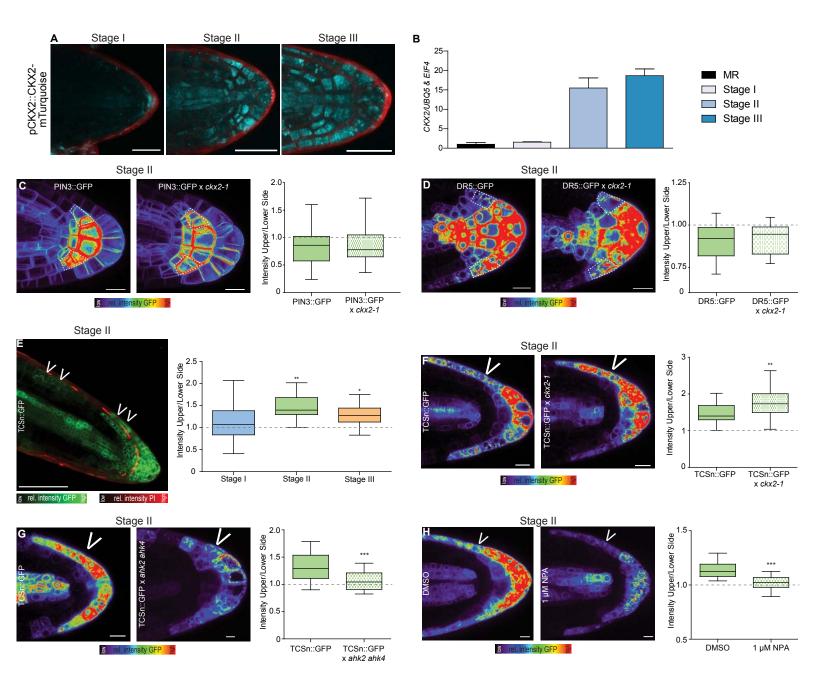


Figure 6. CKX2 modulates assymmetric cytokinin signalling in emerged lateral roots.

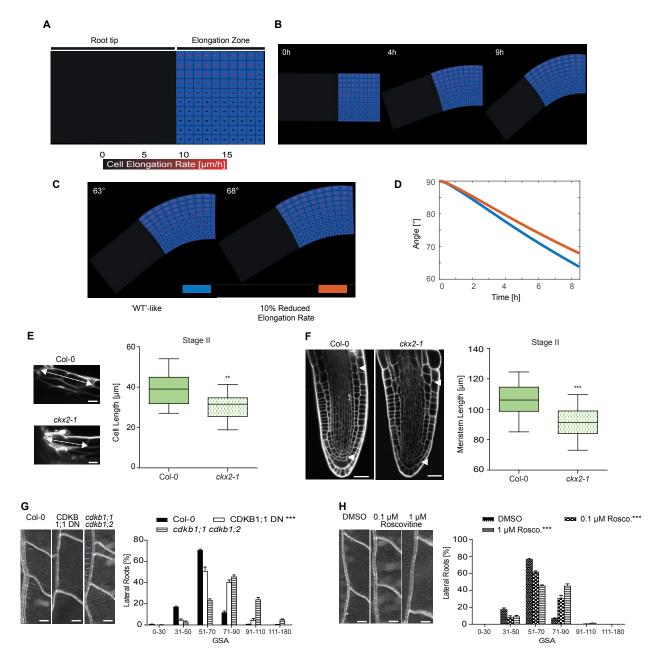


Figure 7. Cytokinin-dependent interference with cell cycle defines angular growth of lateral roots.

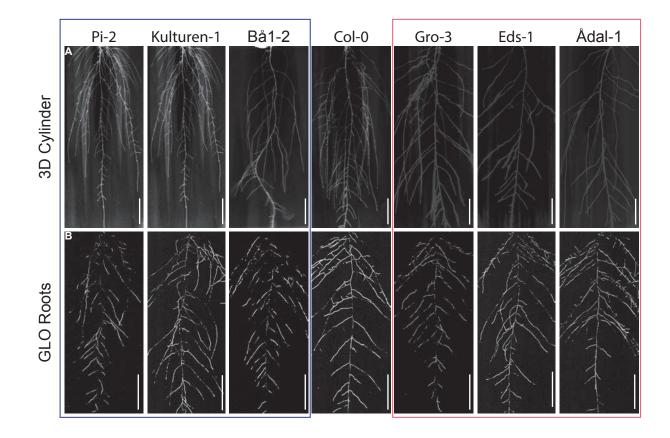


Figure S1. Representative root system images of selected accessions.



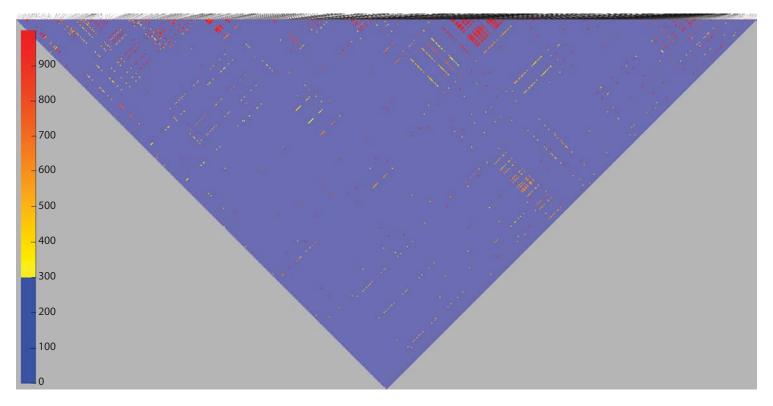


Figure S2. Calculation of linkage disequilibrium by pairwise comparison of 500 SNPs.

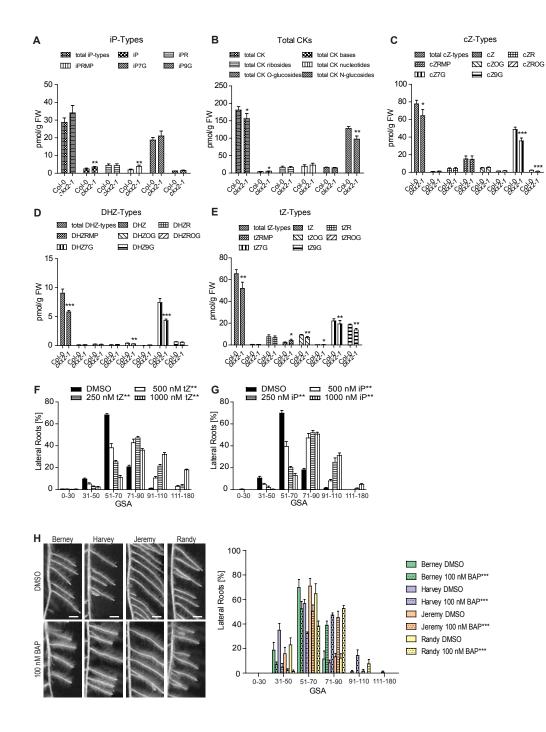


Figure S3. Influence of cytokinin on GSA of lateral roots.

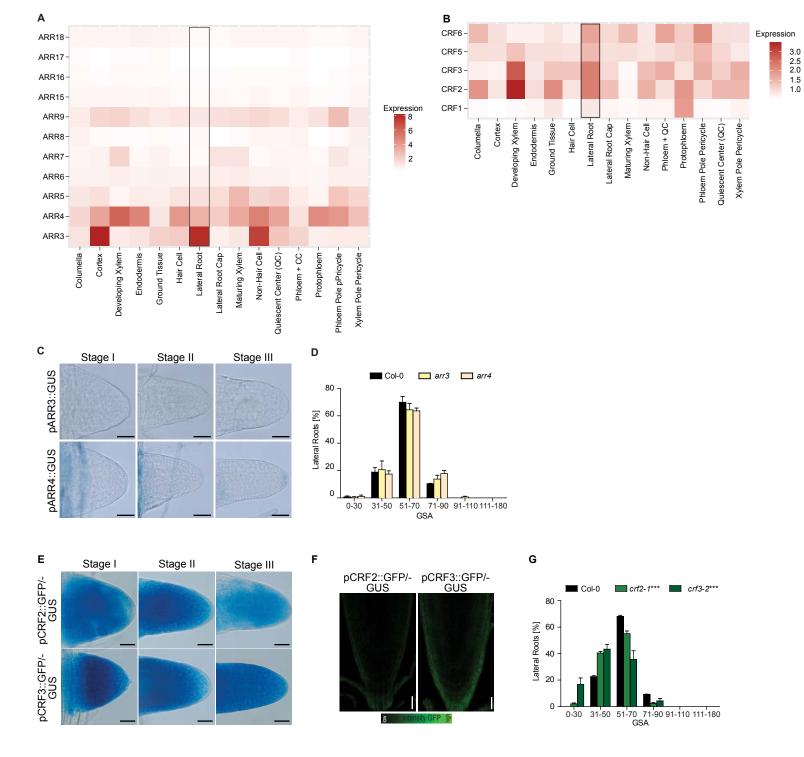


Figure S4. Role of type-A Arabidopsis response regulators (ARRs) and cytokinin response factors (CRFs) in the GSA establishment in LRs.

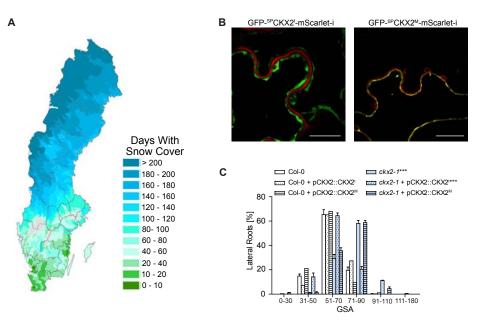


Figure S5. Snow cover in Sweden and characterization of

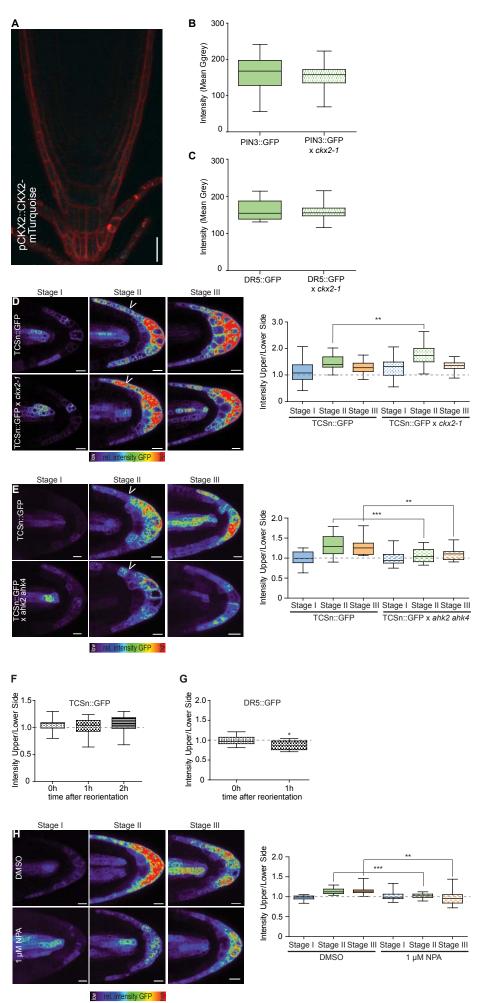


Figure S6. Localization of CKX2 in the main root tip and characterization of cytokinin responses in ckx2-1 mutants.

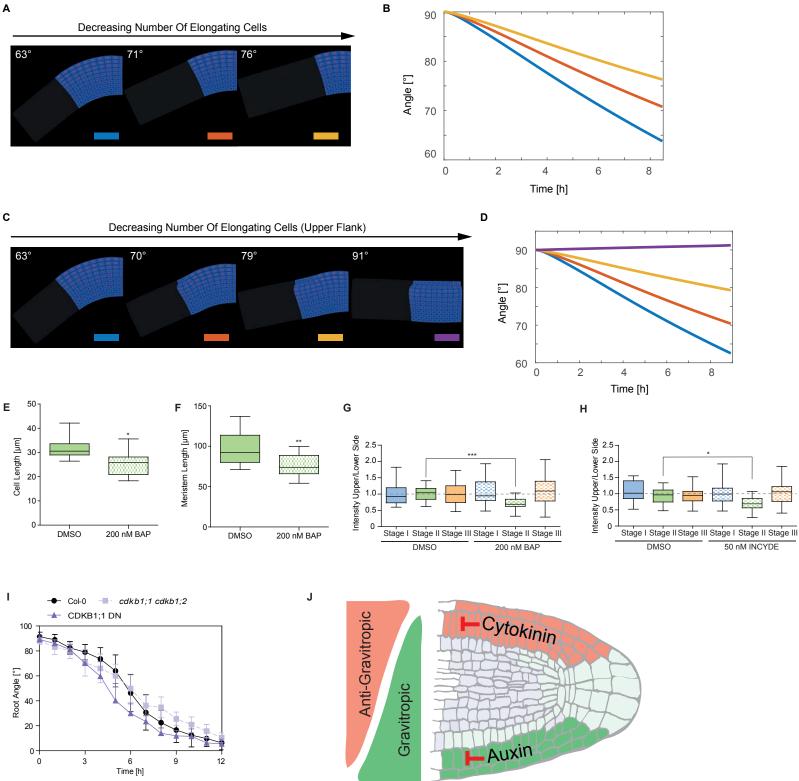


Figure S7. Cytokinin-dependent interference with cell division rates defines angular growth of lateral roots.

Accession ID	Name	Mean GSA Deviation (compared to Col-0)
6180	TÄL 07	-18.58
7246	Ma-2	-18.10
9421	Lan 1	-17.06
9537	IP-Cum- 1	-16.92
6931	Kz-9	-12.65
8311	In-0	-12.35
7299	Pi-2	-12.25
7201	Kr-0	-12.18
9759	Anz-0	-11.95
6073	ÖMö1-7	-11.87
7521	Lp2-6	-11.80
9530	IP-Car-1	-11.55
96	LAC-5	-11.08
6906	C24	-10.97
6951	Pu2-23	-10.80
6942	Nd-1	-10.61
6910	Ct-1	-10.20
8296	Gd-1	-9.98
204	MIB-60	-9.58
6915	Ei-2	-9.50
8348	Nw-0	-9.35
8249	Vimmer by	-9.34
6922	Gu-0	-9.10
8353	Pa-1	-8.84
9336	Bön 1	-8.81
7276	Ob-0	-8.66
8240	Kulturen- 1	-8.61
6990	Amel-1	-8.28
6040	Kni-1	-8.21
6907	CIBC- 17	-7.87
7178	Jm-1	-7.76
7378	Uk-1	-7.74
7062	Ca-0	-7.67
7262	Nw-4	-7.45
6036	Hov3-2	-7.39
6897	Ag-0	-7.34
9165	Truk-5	-7.33
6413	UII3-4	-7.26
6899	Bay-0	-6.93
7000	Aa-0	-6.92

	Wilcox-	
2320	4	-6.82
7291	4 Pa-2	-6.77
7291	Gel-1	-6.61
7199	KI-5	-6.19
7372	Tscha-1	-6.17
8312	ls-0	-6.09
	IP-Mot-	
9560	0	-5.93
7520	Lp2-2	-5.80
6730	CIBC-5	-5.80
768	Zal-1	-5.79
7192	Kil-0	-5.75
224	MIB-86	-5.70
0005	Sparta-	5.04
6085	1	-5.34
8256	Bå1-2	-5.20
5723	Chr-1	-5.17
7310	Pr-0	-5.00
8214	Gy-0	-4.90
5751	Kyl-1	-4.88
8376	Sanna-2	-4.87
7255	Mh-0	-4.82
6994	Ann-1	-4.80
6074	Ör-1	-4.76
7205	Krot-2	-4.64
8337	Mir-0	-4.60
8258	Bå4-1	-4.58
8236	HSm	-4.53
6940	Mz-0	-4.50
6923	HR-10	-4.50
6981	Ws-2	-4.47
6035	Hov1-10	-4.47
6937	Mrk-0	-4.40
6984	Zdr-1	-4.28
9394	Hag 2	-4.24
7176	ls-1	-4.24
6038	Hov3-5	-4.24 -3.99
7282	Or-0	-3.99
8270	Bs-1	-3.89
6076	Rev-2	-3.84
6924	Rev-2 HR-5	-3.78
7123	Ep-0	-3.70
8300	Gr-1	-3.70
6929	Kondara	-3.67
6933	LL-0	-3.60

8314	Ka-0	-3.59
6243	Tottarp-	-3.14
0243	2	-3.14
7287	Ove-0	-3.12
6916	Est-1	-3.00
7522	Mr-0	-3.00
7166	Hey-1	-2.90
6930	Kz-1	-2.77
5729	Coc-1	-2.70
236	MOG- 11	-2.60
7071	Chat-1	-2.57
394	VOU-5	-2.56
7092	Com-1	-2.46
6189	TDr-2	-2.45
	IP-San-	
9579	10	-2.41
	Navajo-	
9143	5	-2.24
6020	e Fjä1-5	-2.17
7523	Pna-17	-2.11
6024	Fly2-2	-2.08
6030	Grön-5	-2.05
6023	Fly2-1	-1.93
7210	La-1	-1.73
5731	Crl-1	-1.69
6077	Rev-3	-1.66
7351	Ty-0	-1.57
7147	Gie-0	-1.55
7384	Ven-1	-1.47
6956	Pu2-7	-1.31
6972	Tsu-1	-1.13
	Ullapool-	
9308	3	-1.08
9817	Ace-0	-0.87
6945	Nok-3	-0.84
9848	Glo-1	-0.83
6975	Uod-1	-0.74
2057	Map-42	-0.70
8259	Bå5-1	-0.58
8395	Tu-0	-0.53
7002	Baa-1	-0.43
7519	ÖMö2-3	-0.40
6971	Ts-5	-0.16
6019	Fjä1-2	-0.16
7081	гјат-2 Со	-0.10
6928	Co Kno-18	-0.10
0320	110-10	-0.00

	IP-Her-	
9545	12	-0.06
8271	Bu-0	0.06
6970	Ts-1	0.10
7283	Ors-1	0.15
6982	Wt-5	0.13
6898	An-1	0.19
9442	Sim 1	0.49
6938	Ms-0	0.50
6042	Lom1-1	0.68
6936	Lz-0	0.70
7275	No-0	0.77
8329	Lm-2	0.80
2171	Paw-26	1.20
7172	HI-3	1.20
6909	Col-0	1.40
6944	NFA-8	1.41
8310	Hs-0	1.46
6973	UII2-3	1.54
6976	Uod-7	1.55
765	Sus-1	1.58
8334	Lu-1	1.70
7382	Utrecht	1.77
8343	Na-1	1.80
7015	Bla-1	1.87
7477	WAR	1.88
6987	Ak-1	1.89
8354	Per-1	1.99
0004	Shahdar	1.00
6962		2.03
	a Po-1	2.03
7309	MNF-	2.04
1874		2.30
0070	Pot-80	0.05
9873	Ndc-0	2.35
7268	Np-0	2.37
6992	Ang-0	2.43
6980	Ws-0	2.61
6034	Hov1-7	2.63
6979	Wei-0	2.71
7004	Bs-2	2.83
266	RAN	3.61
7418	Zu-1	3.73
6284	TV-38	3.99
5719	Bur-0	4.34
7438	N13	4.71
7404	Wc-1	5.34
1552	Sku-30	5.53
766	Dja-1	6.37

6153 TAA 03 6.75 9427 Näs 2 7.50 6025 Gro-3 7.59 6900 Bil-5 7.68 7353 Tha-1 7.74 6978 Wa-1 8.26 7242 Lo-2 8.40 9089 Nar-3 8.89 6043 Löv-1 9.22 7352 Te-0 9.42 6016 Eds-1 9.56 7181 Je-0 9.58 9388 Grön 14 9.67 6977 Van-0 9.83 6188 TDr-1 10.34 6177 TÅL 03 10.41 9831 Cas-0 10.43 6169 TÅD 01 10.45 9321 Ådal 1 10.48 9433 Nyl 13 10.54 9363 EdJ 2 10.75 9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2	7307	Pn-0	6.40
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6169 TÅD 01 10.45 9321 Ådal 1 10.48 9433 Nyl 13 10.54 9363 EdJ 2 10.75 9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 57-16 5009 6009 Eden-1 19.08	6177	TÄL 03	10.41
9321 Ådal 1 10.48 9433 Nyl 13 10.54 9363 EdJ 2 10.75 9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 57-16 19.08	9831	Cas-0	10.43
9433 Nyl 13 10.54 9363 EdJ 2 10.75 9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 998 Stenar- 57-16 18.22 6009 Eden-1 19.08	6169	TÅD 01	10.45
9363 EdJ 2 10.75 9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 6009 Eden-1 19.08	9321	Ådal 1	10.48
9354 Eden 15 10.76 8230 Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 57-16 19.08	9433	Nyl 13	10.54
Algutsru m 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 6009 Eden-1 19.08	9363	EdJ 2	10.75
8230 10.88 6917 Fäb-2 12.49 8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 6009 Eden-1 19.08	9354	Eden 15	10.76
8326 Lis-1 12.79 6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 19.08	8230	Ŭ	10.88
6184 TBÖ 01 12.85 6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6917	Fäb-2	12.49
6199 TDr-14 12.94 5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	8326	Lis-1	12.79
5856 Dör-10 13.12 6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6184	TBÖ 01	12.85
6237 TOM 03 13.47 6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6199	TDr-14	12.94
6946 Oy-0 13.78 6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	5856	Dör-10	13.12
6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6237	TOM 03	13.47
6070 Omn-1 13.99 5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6946	Oy-0	13.78
5835 Bil-3 14.05 9332 Bar 1 14.66 5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	6070		
5829 Ale1-2 15.46 6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 19.08	5835	Bil-3	14.05
6214 TFÄ 04 15.78 Ale- 998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 19.08 19.08	9332	Bar 1	14.66
Ale- 998 Stenar- 57-16 6009 Eden-1 19.08	5829		15.46
998 Stenar- 18.22 57-16 6009 Eden-1 19.08	6214	TFÄ 04	15.78
6009 Eden-1 19.08	998	Stenar-	18.22
	6009		19.08
		TNY 04	20.01

Fragment	Sequence (5' to 3')
CKX2 CDS pGEX FW	GGATCTGCTGGTGCGGCTAATCTTCGTTTAAT
CKX2 CDS pGEX REV	CCAGCGCTACCAGCGCCAAAGATGTCTTGCCCTGGAG
pCKX2 FW	CGACGGTATCGATAAGCTTGATAACAGTAGTCGAACAGTTC
pCKX2 REV	TGCTCACCATTTGTTTATGTTTCTCTCTCTCTC
CKX2 genomic FW	AACATAAACAAATGGCTAATCTTCGTTTAATG
CKX2 genomic REV	CCCATTCCAACTAGAATTCGATGCAAAGATGTCTTGCCCTGG
CKX2 CDS pPLV03 FW	CGAGCTGTACAAGATGGCTAATCTTCGTTTAATG
CKX2 CDS pPLV03 REV	CCTTGCTCACCATAAAGATGTCTTGCCCTGG
35S FW	GGTCGACGGTATCGATAAGCTTGATGACTAGAGCCAAGCTGATC
35S REV	CCTTGCTCACCATTCGACTAGAATAGTAAATTGTAATGTTG
GFP FW	CTATTCTAGTCGAATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAG
GFP REV	GAAGATTAGCCATCTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGC
mScarlet-i FW	GCAAGACATCTTTATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAG
mScarlet-i REV	TAACCCATTCCAACTAGAATTCGATTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATG
CKX2 I23M FW	ATCAAACGGTATGAAAATTGATT
CKX2 I23M REV	AATCAATTTTCATACCGTTTGAT
CKX2_RT_FW	ATGCACCTAAACGGGCCAAATG
CKX2_RT_REV	CGACTCCAATATCGTTTGCCATTG
EIF4A_RT_FW	CTGGAGGTTTTGAGGCTGGTAT
EIF4A_RT_REV	CCAAGGGTGAAAGCAAGAAGA
UBQ5_RT_FW	GTGAAGTGTAACGATGATGAC
UBQ5_RT_REV	GATGTGATCCTTGTAGATGTTG
pCKX2::CKX2_FW	GGTCGACGGTATCGATAAGCTTGATTCTTTTTGTCTAATAGGATTCTG
pCKX2::CKX2_REV	GCCCTTGCTCACAAAGATGTCTTGCCCTGG
mTurqoise_FW	GCAAGACATCTTTGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAG
mTurqoise_FW	TAACCCATTCCAACTAGAATTCGATCTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGC