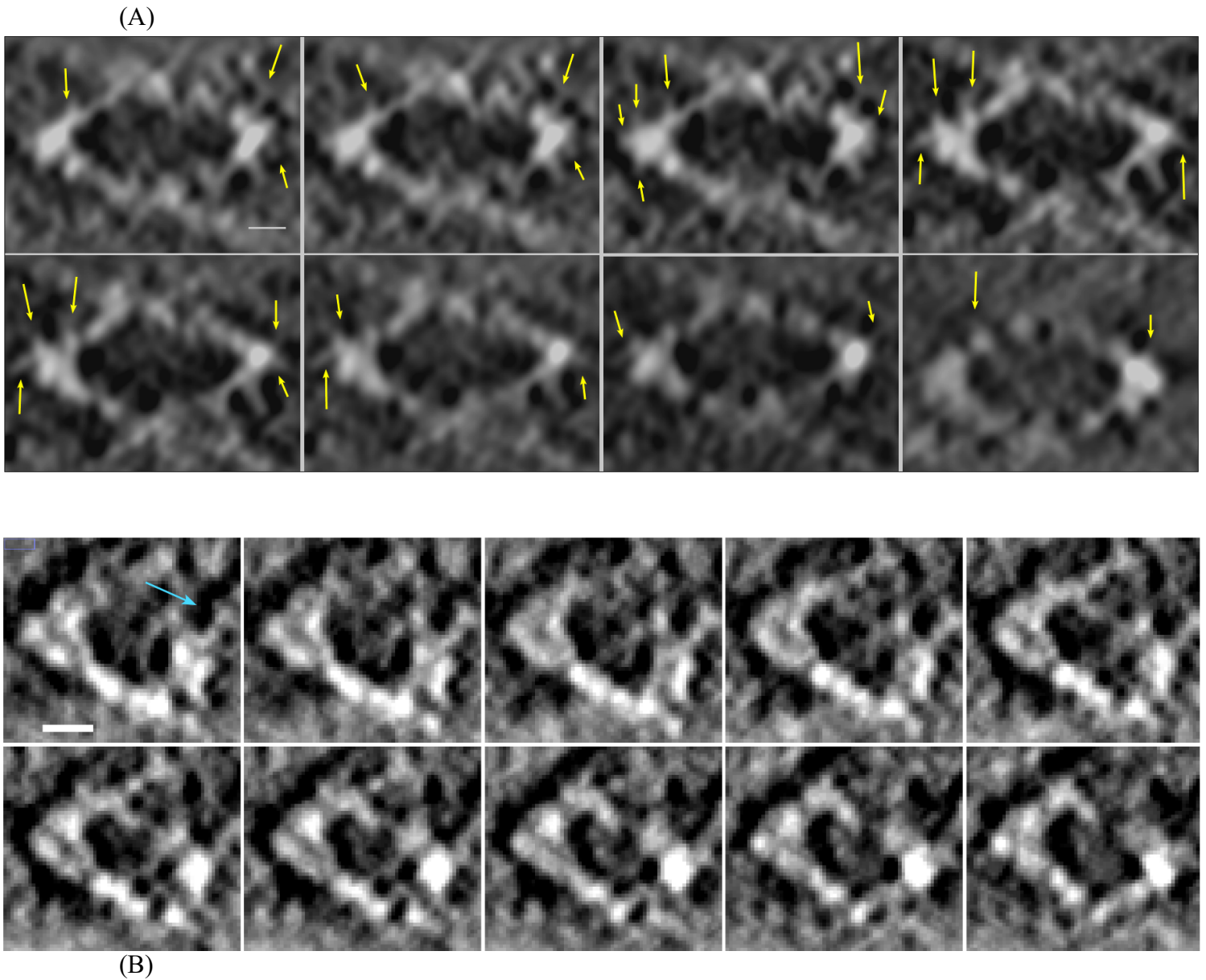


Figure S3



Cross sectional virtual sections perpendicular to the long axis of a microtubule (as in Fig. 4). (A) GMPCPP– and (B) Taxol–stabilized microtubule after cleavage with Subtilisin (see text). Top panel reports virtual sections from same experiment in Fig 1 and 4A. Virtual sections are chosen of arbitrary numbers 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 311 along the long axis of the microtubule relative to an arbitrary start at virtual section 1. Because of the small thickness of the sections (0.39 nm) it is possible to choose one very far (311

sections corresponding to ~ 120 nm) in the XY plane. This choice is justified to document that this behavior is not a function of the place chosen. Examples are chosen here to be a collection of consecutive and non-consecutive sections. Yellow lines in A indicate possible C-terminals, identified also as a function of their width.

(B) panel is obtained from a microtubule polymerized and digested overnight with Subtilisin. These virtual sections are all consecutive and acquired at a magnification leading directly a pixel size ~ 0.25 nm. Light blue arrow (top left) indicate the attachment of a sheet of tubulin contiguous to this microtubule, as previously found for Subtilisin-digested microtubules [7, 8].

Scale bars : 5 nm.