## Supplementary figures



**Supplementary Figure 1.** Deletion analysis of the S2–S3 linker and <sup>NT</sup>S3. (a) Sequence of the S2–S3 linker through <sup>NT</sup>S3. (b) Mutant channel currents elicited by stepping from the -100 mV holding potential to 120 mV in 10 mV increments. In each of the eight mutants, three residues were deleted at a time within the S2–S3 linker or <sup>NT</sup>S3, as indicated.



**Supplementary Figure 2.** Deletion analysis of  $^{CT}S4$  and the S4–S5 linker helix. (a) Sequence of  $^{CT}S4$  through the S4–S5 linker helix. (b) Current of mutant channels elicited by stepping from the -100 mV holding potential to 120 mV in 10 mV increments. In each of the six mutants, three residues were deleted at a time within  $^{CT}S4$  or the S4–S5 linker helix, as indicated.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Effect of DTT on channels containing a single cysteine mutation in the paddle motif. (**a**–**h**) Currents of mutants in 100 mM extracellular K<sup>+</sup>, without (control; **a**, **c**, **e** and **g**) or with (**b**, **d**, **f** and **h**) 1mM DTT treatment, elicited by stepping membrane voltage from the -80 mV (-120 mV for **g**) holding potential to between -80 mV (-120 mV for **g**) and 80 mV, in 10-mV increments.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Currents of mutant channels with a Flag epitope, TEV site and double cysteine mutation. (**a**–**d**) Currents of mutants elicited by stepping membrane voltage from the -80 mV holding potential to between -80 mV and 80 mV, in 10-mV increments. Mutant channels contained an N-terminal Flag epitope (**a**), a TEV site in the S3–S4 linker (**b**), or both an N-terminal Flag epitope and a TEV site, in addition to one of two pairs of cysteine mutations (after exposure to DTT) (**c** and **d**), as indicated.