### Supplementary figure legends

### Figure S1

Statistics of ubiquitination sites in the non-redundant compendium compiled in electronic supplementary material, table S1. (a-b) Breakdown of ubiquitinated proteins by the number of modified sites per protein (a) compared to that of phosphorylation sites (b) from the human proteome. (c) Breakdown of ubiquitination sites by the number of studies that identified them. 37% of sites fall in categories 2-8 (plotted here on log scale).

#### Figure S2

(a) Multiple testing correction of flanking region preferences. To apply the most rigorous test possible to the statistical significance of the identified amino acid enrichments in the flanking region of APC/C ubiquitination sites, we applied a multiple testing correction to the calculated *p*-values (p [corrected] =  $1 - (1 - p)^n$ ). This test recalculates confidence measures allowing for random occurrence of the identified enrichment at any particular position within multiple positions [1]. This correction would underestimate the significance of enrichment at individual positions, but even so the *p*-value for serine at -1 position remained significant.

(*b*) Ubiquitination sites close to potential degrons show stronger preference for serine at -1 and in 'KEN' motif than general ubiquitination sites in APC/C substrates. Right-hand panel: Flanking region profile of ubiquitination sites within 40 residues downstream of potential degrons ('RxxL' and 'KEN' motifs) in APC/C substrates. Heat map (ln of the *p*-value) depicts significance of enrichment (in red) or depletion (in blue) for each amino acid as described in figure 2a-b. Left-hand panel is adopted from figure 2a for comparison.

### Figure S3

Identification of ubiquitination sites in Aurora A by mass spectrometry.

(*a*) Sequence coverage achieved is shaded yellow, with the A-box in red. The number of ubiquitinated peptides identified was very low (*b*), reflecting our general observation that <1% of total substrate is

polyubiquitinated at any one time. We used Aurora A $\Delta$ A-box rather than the full-length protein, because we can achieve much higher levels of expression of this version, since this protein is still ubiquitinated in APC/C-dependent manner, but not efficiently degraded (MM, S. Qiao, CL, unpublished data).

### Figure S4

Further investigation of the Aurora A KEN motif. (*a*) U2OS cells expressing indicated AurA-Venus constructs were imaged in mitosis in preparation for time-lapse degradation assays. AurA-Venus KEN>KAA did not localise correctly at mitosis, even though AurA-Venus KEN>AAA localised exactly like the wild-type protein. Bars, 10  $\mu$ m. (*b*) *In vivo* degradation assays (performed as described in figure 4d) for different AurA-Venus KEN mutants showed that AurA-Venus KEN>KAA is completely stable during mitotic exit and that AurA-Venus KEN>AAA is partially degraded, although more slowly than the wild-type protein or AurA-Venus KEN>REN. We concluded that Aurora A KEN probably contributes to both degron and ubiquitin acceptor functions in Aurora A degradation but that we could not test this idea further using Aurora A KEN>KAA since this version of Aurora A (mislocalized, likely misfolded) was not suitable for further study.

### Figure S5.

*In vivo* degradation assay for Nek2A WT and SKEN mutants. Time-lapse imaging and quantifications were performed as in figure 4d. NEBD, Nuclear Envelope Breakdown.

Noble WS (2009) How does multiple testing correction work? *Nature Biotechnology* 27: 1135-1137

Supplementary figure S1





### Supplementary figure S2



ub-sites in APC/C substrates vs all ub-sites



ub-sites in APC/C substrates vs all ub-sites



-10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 K +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10

ub-sites in SCF substrates vs all ub-sites

-10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 K +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10



ub-sites in APC/C substrates  $\leq$  40 residues downstream of D-box or KEN motif vs all ub-sites

## Supplementary figure S3

## **(***a***)**

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
MDR <mark>SK</mark>	<b>ENCISGPV</b>	<mark>(ATAPVGGPKR</mark>	VLVTQQF <mark>PCC</mark>	)NPLPVNSGQA	<b>QRVLCPSNSS</b>	<b>ORVPLQAQKL</b>	<mark>VS</mark> SHKPVQNQ	KQK <mark>QLQATSV</mark>	'PHPVSR
	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180
<mark>PLNNT</mark>	QKSKQPLPS	SAPENNPEEEL	<mark>ASKQKNEES</mark> k	KRQWALEDFE	IGRPLGKGKF	<mark>GNVYLAR</mark> EKQ	SKFILALKVL	FK <mark>AQLEKAGV</mark>	<mark>EHQLRR</mark>
	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270
<mark>EVEIQ</mark>	SHLRHPNIL	RLYGYFHDAT	RVYLILEYAF	<mark>PLGTVYRELQ</mark> K	LSKFDEQRTA	<b>ATYITELANAL</b>	<b>SYCHSKRVI</b> H	RDIKPENLLL	<mark>GSAGEL</mark>
	280	290	300	310	320	330	340	350	360
KIADFGWSVHAPSSRRTTLCGTLDYLPPEMIEGRMHDEKVDLWSLGVLCYEFLVGKPPFEANTYQETYKRISRVEFTFPDFVTEGARDLI									
	370	380	390	400					
SRLLK	(HNPSORPML	REVLEHPWIT	ANSSKPSNCO	ONKESASKOS					

72% coverage of whole Aurora A sequence

82% coverage of Aurora A sequence excluding the unidentifiable peptides in deleted A-box

**(***b***)** 

Ubiquitination sites	Unmodified peptide no.	Ubiquitinated peptide no.
K5	14	3
K14	17	1
K97/99	14	1
K389/396	7	1

## Supplementary figure S4





# Supplementary figure S5

