**Supplementary Figure 1. The complexity of cellular regulatory systems responsible for transcription ('regulome'), protein function ('motifome') and degradation ('degrome') by representative numbers of entities (proteins and regulatory elements) involved.** Regulome: large-scale interplay between transcription factors  $\left(\frac{1700-1900}{1}\right)$  and DNA elements within the human genome <sup>2</sup> regulate gene transcription (see also main text). Motifome: a large number of PTM types, PTM enzymes and regulatory peptide motifs ensure proper protein function. The numbers of kinases <sup>3</sup>, phosphosites <sup>4</sup> and representative motif elements <sup>5</sup> within the human proteome are shown (details in the main text). Degrome: numbers of human ubiquitin E3 ligases, number of characterized primary degron types (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1) and their experimentally validated instances (Supplementary Table 2). The details of the experimentally validated human substrates (i.e., 93) are provided in Supplementary Table 2. 6024 human substrates were predicted to carry one or more of the 25 primary degrons that have been observed to also occur in human/mammalian proteins. SLiMSearch3 software (http://bioware.ucd.ie/~compass/biowareweb/Server\_pages/slimsearch3.php) was used for predictions, and then putatively functional, degron-containing sequences were filtered (on the basis of evolutionary conservation and disorder profiles; these parameters have been validated as being clear indicators for enriching functional motifs 6) to obtain high-confidence hits. Thus, assuming  $\sim$ 20000-22000 human proteins, the fraction of the proteome that carries high-confidence predicted hits to the 25 characterized motif types is on the order of 30% (shown on the pie-chart above the degradome bars).

*(Figure on the following page)*



**Supplementary Figure 2.** DynaMine S2 scores (protein backbone N-H S2 order parameters) <sup>7</sup> that serve as an estimate of the local backbone dynamics. Primary degron sequences (red), their flanking residues (10 neighboring residues, in both N- and C-terminal directions; in blue), and the remainder of the protein sequences (grey). 171 primary degron instances (names and UniProt IDs are given in Supplementary Table 2) were used as input. S2 scores below 0.7 indicate high flexibility, 0.7-0.8 indicates context-dependent flexibility and values >0.8 indicate structured/rigid backbone regions.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Pie chart showing the observed SSE distribution of primary degron residues in the bound state (data from 23 PDB structures of degron-E3 ligase complexes, see Supplementary Table 4). Molecular figures are shown for four representative examples from different SSE types that the degron sequences form in complex with the E3 ligase. E3 ligase/E3 adaptor subunit is shown as grey surface and the substrate primary degrons are shown as cartoon (red). PDB codes for the four structures are also indicated.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Histograms showing the SPINE-X accessible surface area (ASA) values calculated for all 157 proteins of the primary degron dataset, segregated by amino acid type. Along the x-axis, ASA values (in square Angstroms) are divided into  $10\AA^2$  bins. Along the y-axis, the bar height corresponds to the number of residues of the given amino acid type with an ASA corresponding to each bin. The total number of residues for each amino acid type is shown below the amino acid name. Blue vertical lines represent the average SPINE-X predicted ASAs for each amino acid type, whereas the red vertical lines represent the average observed ASAs obtained from a non-redundant set of PDB structures 8.

*(Figure on the following page)*



**Supplementary Figure 5.** Average Z-ASA values for the primary degron and flanking regions are shown relative to the (background) ASA Zscore distribution for the entire dataset. This enables a relative comparison of the average surface accessibility of degron and degron flanking regions, relative to the background ASA distribution calculated for the whole protein dataset (shown separately for the 28 primary degron types). First, SPINE-X ASA predictions for all residues of the 157 proteins of the primary degron dataset were made. Absolute ASAs were converted into Z-scores using residue-specific ASA distributions (shown in Supplementary Figure 4). This overall Zscore distribution for all residue types is shown as grey bars in each of the sub-figures. Higher Z-scores indicate higher relative accessibility. **Dotted vertical lines** show the location of the **average Z-ASA** of the primary degron residues (red) and average Z-ASA of its flanking regions (blue), considering all the degron instances belonging to each class.

*(Figures on the following pages 8-11)*









**Supplementary Figure 6.** Evolutionary conservation of Ser, Thr and Tyr [STY] residues estimated using Sequence Entropy (S) values calculated from multiple sequence alignments of orthologs (see Methods). The lower the value of 'S' for a given alignment position, the higher is the conservation of that residue. (A) Comparison of 'S' values for [STY] residues located in flanking regions (10 neighboring residues, in both N- and C-terminal directions) of primary degron segments (red color) versus all [STY] residues in proteins present in the primary degron dataset (blue color). (B) Average Sequence Entropy (<S>) values calculated for all [STY] residues in a protein (along the x-axis) versus the <S> for [STY] residues flanking the primary degron for that protein (y-axis). Each point corresponds to a protein in the primary degron dataset. Points below the diagonal indicate that the degron-flanking [STY] residues are better conserved as compared to the set of all [STY] for that protein.

*(Figure on the following page)*



**Supplementary Figure 7.** Heatmap showing enrichment (green) or depletion (red) of the 20 aa types neighboring the Deg lysines

(position '0') relative to the Others set (details provided in Methods and main text).



Deg vs Others

**Supplementary Figure 8.** Relative positioning of primary degron(s) and secondary degron(s) in specific substrates that were present in both the primary degron and Deg lysine (degradation-linked) datasets. Eleven such substrates were found and the domain organization of these proteins is shown along with the location of the primary degron and the Deg lysines (in red). Domains are colored cyan and inter-domain regions are in grey. Pfam version 27.0 was used for domain annotations. On the bottom panels, the distance (along the primary sequence) distribution of degradation-linked Deg (red) and non-degradation linked Others (blue) lysines, relative to the primary degron are shown.

*(Figures on the following pages 16-27)*

#### (A) P04637 (Cellular tumor antigen p53)



## (B) P30307 (CDC25C, M-phase inducer phosphatase 3)



#### (C) P35222 (Catenin beta-1)



## (D) P25963 (NF-kappa-B inhibitor alpha)



## (E) P38936 (Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1)



## (F) P46527 (Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B)



(G) Q9Y2N7 (Hypoxia-inducible factor 3-alpha)



(H) Q16665 (Hypoxia-inducible factor 1-alpha)



(I) Q99814 (Endothelial PAS domain-containing protein)





#### (J) P10071 (Transcriptional activator GLI3)



(K) P20248 (Cyclin-A2)





**Supplementary Figure 9.** Percentages of lysine residues (from each of the four lysine datasets: Deg, Others, Ubsites and Non-Ubsites) that are within a given distance (number of amino acids away) from the nearest long flexible region predicted using DynaMine. The inset shows the fraction of lysines that are located within a long flexible region. Long flexible regions are defined as sequence regions containing 20 or more consecutive residues that are predicted to be flexible (including residues that are predicted to possess contextdependent flexibility) (see Methods). Breaks of at most 3 consecutive non-flexible (rigid) residues were permitted within any long flexible region.













a The two CBL ligase motifs (PTK and MET) were obtained from Ng et al.  $^{14}$ . Motif patterns for 5 N-end rule degrons were present in the ELM database  $^{47}$ ; however, 4 of the 5 degron types (Nend Nbox 1, Nend UBRbox 1, 2 and 3) had zero instances in ELM. Lists of experimentally validated substrates containing these motifs were therefore obtained from Varshavsky (2011)  $^{32}$ . The remaining degron categories (and the corresponding target substrates) have been compiled in the ELM database under the "DEG" motif category. Only instances that are experimentally validated to be true positives were included. Details about the motif instances are provided in Supplementary Table 2.

b The motif pattern uses the following nomenclature: "." specifies any amino acid type, "[X]" specifies the allowed amino acid type(s) at that position, "^X" at the beginning of the pattern specifies that the sequence starts with amino acid type X, "[^X]" means that this position can have any amino acid other than type X, numbers specified as the following "X{x,y}", where x and y specify the minimum and maximum number of 'X' amino acid type required at that position. "\$" sign implies the carboxy-terminal of the protein chain.

c Conserved residue positions within the primary degron that are known to be post-translationally modified (eg, phosphorylation, proline hydroxylation) are shown in boldface (PTM data from UniProt<sup>48</sup>).

d A more exhaustive description and list of literature references for each of these degrons (except the two CBL E3 ligase motifs) can be obtained from the ELM website (http://elm.eu.org) by searching for "DEG" motifs. The ABBA motif of the APC/C is currently under curation status in the ELM database and therefore accessible from the ELM candidates page (http://elm.eu.org/elms/candidates.html).



**Supplementary Table 2.** Details of experimentally validated substrates of specific E3 ligases that are targeted using specific linear motifs (primary degrons).













a The ABBA motif has dual inhibitory and degron roles for the APC/C  $^{11}$ . Only the degradation substrate (Cyclin A) is listed here (as well as in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1), since we are focusing on the degron role. However, the motif pattern is derived using all characterized ABBA instances (human cyclin A2, BubR1, Bub1 and yeast Acm1).

b The SPOP binding motif is enriched in Ser and Thr residues and many SPOP substrates contain multiple Ser/Thr-rich regions that act cooperatively to bind SPOP. Only those motifs are included here that have: 1) been experimentally demonstrated (mostly by mutagenesis experiments) to be required for SPOP binding, and 2) match the current ELM consensus motif pattern. For most of the substrates, the ones included here correspond to the most crucial motifs for SPOP binding and degradation.

**Supplementary Table 3.** PDB structures of unbound (free) substrates with an experimentally validated primary degron. These PDB structures were selected because the constructs used for the structure determination experiment contained the primary degron sequence. However, only the structures of the Kelch\_KEAP1\_1 substrate I-kappa-B-kinase beta (UniProt ID: O14920; PDB IDs: 4E3C, 4KIK) have visible electron density for the degron region.



## **Supplementary Table 4.** Non-redundant list of PDB structures for substrate primary degrons in complex with E3 ligases (or with

substrate recognition adaptor subunits in case of multi-subunit E3 complexes).





For 4GGD.pdb, there are two degron-E3 complexes in the asymmetric unit and the degron peptide is found in different structural conformations (a 3-10 helix and a turn conformation) in the two complexes. Therefore both are indicated in this table and both degron conformations have been used for making the overall statistics shown in Supplementary Figure 3.

# **Supplementary Table 5.** Non-redundant PDB structures for secondary degrons (Deg lysines).



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