



Figure 6 The limited process description displays all posttranslational modifications and their catalysts, but excludes complex formation. Each specific internal state is represented as a distinct node, although some intermediate phosphorylation states have been excluded. Phosphorylations are indicated with red arrows (ATP as co-substrate and ADP as co-product), GEF reactions as orange arrows ($-$ GTP, $+$ GDP), and dephosphorylation or GAP reactions as blue arrows ($+$ P). Only a fraction of the catalytic modifications have a known catalyst for both forward and reverse reactions, and the required state of the catalyst known is in even fewer cases. Therefore, even this highly simplified process description includes uncertainty in the required states of both catalysts and substrates. In this visualisation, this uncertainty has been shown by using a single catalysis arrow from a box including all potentially active state of the catalyst to the basic state of the substrate (completely unphosphorylated for kinase reactions, or completely phosphorylated for phosphatase reactions). While these simplifications are unsupported, including additional catalytic arrows would be equally arbitrary with the added drawback of making the figure more complex (see Supplementary Figure S2). Despite the need for implicit assumptions, the process description is useful as it is very explicit and intuitive to read.

individually in the reaction and contingency lists in the ‘PubMed-identifier(s)’ column with their PMID number.

(Ai et al, 2002; Alepuz et al, 2003; Alepuz et al, 2001; Andrews and Herskowitz, 1989; Andrews and Moore, 1992; Apanovitch et al, 1998; Baetz and Andrews, 1999; Baetz et al, 2001; Ballon et al, 2006; Bao et al, 2004; Bao et al, 2010; Bar et al, 2003; Bardwell et al, 1996; Bardwell et al, 1998a; Bardwell et al, 1998b; Bender and Sprague, 1986; Bilsland-Marchesan et al, 2000; Blumer et al, 1988; Breitkreutz et al, 2001; Bruckner et al, 2004; Butty et al, 1998; Chou et al, 2004; Chou et al, 2006; Cismowski et al, 2001; Clark et al, 1993; Collister et al, 2002; Cook et al, 1996; Crosby et al, 2000; Cullen et al, 2004; Davenport et al, 1999; de Nadal et al, 2003; Dodou and Treisman, 1997; Doi et al, 1994; Dolan et al, 1989; Dowell et al, 1998; Drogen et al, 2000; Elion et al, 1993; Errede et al, 1993; Escote et al, 2004; Feng et al, 1998; Fitch et al, 2004; Flandez et al, 2004; Flotho et al, 2004; Friant et al, 2001; Garcia-Gimeno and Struhl, 2000; Garrison et al, 1999; Gartner et al, 1998; Gartner et al, 1992; Good et al, 2009; Green et al, 2003; Guo et al, 2009; Hagen et al, 1986; Hagen et al, 1991; Hahn and Thiele, 2002; Heenan et al, 2009; Heise et al, 2010; Ho et al, 2002; Horie et al, 2008; Inagaki et al, 1999; Inouye et al, 1997a; Inouye et al, 1997b; Irie et al, 1993; Jacoby et al, 1997; Jung et al, 2002; Kamada et al, 1995; Kamada et al, 1996; Ketela et al, 1999; Kim et al, 2010; Kim et al, 2008; Kranz et al, 1994; Kusari et al, 2004; Lamson et al, 2002; Lee and Levin, 1992; Leeuw et al, 1995; Leeuw et al, 1998; Li et al, 1998; Liu et al, 2005; MacKay et al, 1991; MacKay et al, 1988; Madden et al, 1997; Madhani and Fink, 1997; Madhani et al, 1997; Maeda et al, 1995; Maeda et al, 1994; Maleri et al, 2004; Mapes and Ota, 2004; Martin et al, 2000;

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Zarrinpar *et al.*, 2003; Zarzov *et al.*, 1996; Zeitlinger *et al.*, 2003; Zhan *et al.*, 1997; Zhan and Guan, 1999; Zhao *et al.*, 1995; Zheng and Guan, 1994; Zheng *et al.*, 1994; Zhou *et al.*, 1993).

The methods used are an integral part of the results and are outlined in that section. For additional details, please see Supplementary information.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information is available at the *Molecular Systems Biology* website (www.nature.com/msb).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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