Figure S6

Diagram showing the interaction of MHC, TCR, CD4, and Lck proteins in a typical signaling pathway. The diagram illustrates the binding of antigens (ag) to MHC and the subsequent activation of Lck, leading to the phosphorylation (P) of ITAM (ITAM/ITAM).
**Supplementary Figure 6** The situation if pMHC dimers are prevalent on APC surfaces (the zig-zag line indicates association). (a) With high probability, pMHC dimers will be heterodimers of agonist and endogenous pMHC because the latter are in abundance. (b) TCR binding to agonist pMHC leads to recruitment and binding of CD4. This also leads to the spatial localization of Lck in a complex that is functionally identical to 5.i.c. (c) TCR binds to an endogenous pMHC, and can be triggered in spite of small half life, because Lck is “ready and waiting”.