Harnessing systematic protein-ligand interaction fingerprints for drug discovery

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Keywords

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Research Highlights

- Review of protein-ligand interaction fingerprints for drug discovery
- Exploring polypharmacology
- Revealing drug-resistance mechanisms
- Design of kinase allosteric inhibitors and covalent inhibitors

Abstract

Determining protein-ligand interaction characteristics and mechanisms is critical in the drug discovery process. Here we review recent progress and successful applications of a systematic protein-ligand interaction fingerprint (IFP) approach for investigating proteome-wide protein-ligand interactions for drug development. Specifically, we review the use of this IFP approach for revealing polypharmacology across the whole kinome, predicting promising targets from which to design allosteric inhibitors and covalent kinase inhibitors, uncovering the binding mechanisms of drugs of interest, and demonstrating resistant mechanisms of specific drugs. Together, we demonstrate that the IFP strategy is efficient and practical for drug design research and development in the current era of big data.

Introduction

Drug discovery is a time-consuming, costly, and complicated process. For this reason, in silico drug design has been a routine component used to decrease the cost and shorten the time period to drug launch ^{1,2}. Success supports the advantage and efficiency of computational drug discovery strategies. For example, Table 1 lists 26 FDA-approved drugs, which were designed using computer-aided drug discovery approaches. ³⁻⁵ Most recently, advances in biomedical data science including the advent of machine/deep learning applications have made computational pharmacology even more important in facilitating drug discovery ^{6,7}.

In the early stage of novel drug development, one of the most important tasks is to discover promising lead molecules able to withstand the subsequent rigor of clinical trials⁸. Computer-aided drug discovery can economically narrow the choices from a myriad of compound screening databases and reveal the relevant binding characteristics, used to explore libraries of drug-like compounds ⁹. Computer-aided drug screening can be loosely divided into three classes: receptorbased, ligand-based, and protein-ligand-interaction-based methods ^{10,11}. A receptor-based method uses the 3D structure of receptors, where the structural flexibility, the size and shape of the binding pocket, and the properties of binding affinity are utilized to facilitate drug discovery. The ligandbased method is an approach that relies on the knowledge of ligand molecules and is used in cases where receptor 3D information is not available^{12,13}. Protein-ligand-interaction-based methods combine the two ^{14,15}. For example, in the process of computer-aided virtual screening, properties of ligand similarity ¹⁶ and molecular drug-like rules ¹⁷ such as molecular weight and the number of hydrogen bonds, are often applied to find lead candidates. With the advent of structure-based biomedical data science, a large number of protein structures and bioactive molecules have been compiled ¹⁸⁻²¹, providing a substantial basis for the development of protein-ligand interactionbased approaches, such as pharmacophore-based and interaction fingerprint-based methods ²²⁻²⁴. A pharmacophore-based scheme trains a receptor-ligand interaction model as the representative based on a set of bioactive ligands interacting with a given receptor ²⁴. Given the representative binding pharmacophores, the virtual screening can be carried out for any candidate compound. By comparison, the scheme based on the protein-ligand interaction fingerprint (IFP) ²² is to encode the details of protein-ligand interaction into a binary string using a set of predefined interaction types (van der Waals, π – π stacking, hydrogen bond, electrostatic interaction, and so on) and criteria ²². Using this encoded binary string, the binding features, given a ligand-bound complex, can be captured in great detail and easily manipulated. Since Deng et al. (2004) presented the structural interaction fingerprint (S-IFP) method ²², protein-ligand IFP strategies have been improved and applied to virtual screening ²⁵⁻²⁸, post-processing of dock poses ^{29,30}, scoring functions ³¹⁻³³, and so on ^{23,34}. However, these applications have been restricted to use on the same receptor or a cluster of highly homologous protein structures ²⁵.

To explore proteome-scale polypharmacology for personalized drug discovery, Zhao et al. provided a scheme, Fs-IFP ³⁵, combining structural systems pharmacology ³⁶ and a structural interaction fingerprint strategy ²². For Fs-IFP, first, the binding pockets of receptors are determined for the whole proteome. Second, every known complex for each binding pocket is encoded into a binary string using the interaction fingerprint strategy²². Finally, comparable interaction fingerprints are obtained by extracting the aligned "pocketome" and the corresponding fingerprint strings. Utilizing this Fs-IFP scheme, the authors have extended the structural interaction fingerprint strategy to multiple protein families, regardless of whether they are highly homologous or distant from each other, thus uncovering characteristics and nuances of binding. We introduce the specifics of the IFP and Fs-IFP protocols and provide applications of the method to rational

drug discovery. Finally, we discuss the prospective applications of this strategy by merging biomedical data science and machine/deep learning models.

An overview of IFP methods

Different descriptor schemes have been used to characterize protein-ligand interactions³⁷⁻³⁹. For example, an element-based descriptor scheme^{38,40}, in which the protein-ligand interaction is described using a combination of the direct interacting atom pairs from protein and ligand separately based on the element types, e.g., C-N or C-O. Thus, every position of the fingerprint in this scheme represents a paired element type to describe the given protein-ligand interaction. Atom types can be described more specifically based on the protein environments. For example, the SYBYL scheme³⁸ classifies the atoms into distinct subtypes based on their chemical atom properties. For example, there are 5 subtypes of carbon atom types: C1 (sp carbon), C2 (sp2 carbon), C3 (sp3 carbon), Car (aromatic carbon), and Ccat (carbocation), which leads to 25 types of different C-C interaction descriptors instead of a single type.

One popular descriptor scheme is based on structural interaction fingerprints (IFPs)^{22,29}. In 2004, Deng et al. proposed an IFP scheme, known as S-IFP, to structurally characterize protein-ligand interactions ²². The atom types were defined using the SMARTs definiation⁴¹. The S-IFP approach encodes protein-ligand interactions in a 1D binary string. Specifically, each residue, comprising the binding pocket, is encoded into a 7-digit binary substring (Figure 1a) using pre-defined geometric criteria. The 7-digit binary substring describes the contributions of each amino acid to the protein-ligand interaction and represents 7 types of interaction, whether existing or not, including (1) contact with the ligand, (2) involving main-chain atoms, (3) involving side-chain atoms, (4) polar interactions, (5) nonpolar interactions, (6) hydrogen bond interactions (amino acid as acceptor), and (7) hydrogen bond interactions (amino acid as donor). For example, 1000010, where "1" indicates the interaction exists, and "0" indicates no interaction. Following the S-IFP method, a few variations have been developed such as r-IFP ⁴², and w-IFP ⁴³. The r-IFP method also encodes the r-group or core-fragment of the ligand bearing the interactions with the specific amino acid of the target ⁴². The w-IFP method ⁴³ encodes the interactions into IFPs with features of relative importance ⁴³. Based on S-IFP, two additional interactions (aromatic and charged) were added in Stefan et al.'s method ⁴⁴ creating a 9-digit binary substring describing the interactions between each residue and the ligand ⁴⁴.

Rognan et al. encoded the protein-ligand interactions into a 1D binary IFP string with an array of 11-bit substrings (Figure 1b), which describe how each amino acid interacts with the ligand. Each amino acid in the binding pocket is encoded into one 11-bit substring corresponding to 11 types of interaction: i.e. (i) hydrophobic interaction, (ii) aromatic interaction (face-to-face), (iii) aromatic interaction (edge-to-face), (iv) hydrogen interaction (protein atom as acceptor), (v) hydrogen interaction (protein atom as donor), (vi) ionic interaction (protein atom with positive charge), (vii) ionic interaction (protein atom as acceptor), (ix) weak hydrogen interaction (protein atom as donor), (x) π -cation interaction, and (xi) metal ionic interaction with the ligand. A variety of software is available for encoding the ligand-binding interaction fingerprints, such as PyPLIF ³⁰ and IChem ⁴⁵. PyPLIF encodes the given protein-ligand complex into an IFP string using 7 types of interaction (i-xi).

Another class of advanced IFPs are the extended connectivity fingerprints (ECFPs)⁴⁶, which encode all of the local interactions between the ligand and the close protein atoms within the binding site⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰. Each ligand-protein atom pair is considered an interaction if the interatomic

distance is less than a predefined threshold, for example, 4.5 Å⁴⁸. Every atom/bond type is defined within the ECFP and used as an identifier⁴⁶. Currently, the ECFP-based IFP scheme has been applied to virtual screening and binding affinity predictions^{47,48,50}. Compared to the early S-IFP method, the ECFP-based IFPs are protein fragment-based and encoded by iteratively hashing the interacting atom pairs into integers and then folding the virtual strings,^{47,50} whereas S-IFP-based IFPs are residue-based and encoded using the pre-defined 7-type geometric rules²⁹.

Recently, the Fs-IFP method was developed for proteome-wide drug discovery ³⁵. The motivation being profiling polypharmacology is necessary not only to reveal primary targets but also off-targets ^{51,52}. Fs-IFP extends the IFP approach to the whole structural proteome by combining the IFP approach with sequence order-independent binding-site alignment to ultimately determine the polypharmacology of select inhibitors. The Fs-IFP method consists of four steps (Figure 1c). Step 1 is to construct the structural dataset including all the ligand-bound protein complexes, all of which can be downloaded from the Protein Data Bank (PDB)¹⁸ or a PDB-binding database ¹⁹. Step 2 is to align all of the binding sites using a sequence order-independent bindingsite alignment method, for example, SMAP ⁵³, which provides a sequence-order-independent secondary-structure alignment and outputs a corresponding matched-residues matrix. Using the binding site of the study target as a template, all other binding sites across the structural proteome can be aligned and presented as an alignment matrix of amino acids. In this residue matrix, every row of amino acids comprising the binding sites is extracted for every complex. Every column represents the aligned residues occurring in the same position within all the binding sites. Step 3 encodes all of the protein-ligand interaction types in every complex into a 1D array of bit strings using off-the-shelf tools such as IChem⁴⁵. Specifically, each residue in the binding site of each complex is encoded into a 7-bit substring ²⁹. The 7-bit substring represents 7 types of interaction

(i-vii) as described above between an amino acid and the corresponding ligand within the binding site. Thus, the 1D array of bit strings for every complex is composed of a series of 7-bit substrings ^{30,54}. Step 4 combines the aligned residue matrix of Step 2 with the 1D array of bit strings of every complex from Step 3. In other words, every amino acid in the residue matrix is replaced using the corresponding 7-bit interaction fingerprint for every binding site.

Overview of drug discovery using the Fs-IFP approach

Revealing patterns of ligand binding across the proteome

Polypharmacology makes it challenging to achieve the desired bioactivity and selectivity in targeted drug discovery 55,56. The Fs-IFP approach provides a practical means of exploring polypharmacology across the proteome. For example, we explored the polypharmacology and binding patterns of kinase inhibitors across the whole kinome ⁵⁷ using the Fs-IFP approach. The human kinase family comprises more than 500 kinases many being drug targets for treating different diseases. It has been challenging to design specific kinase inhibitors because all kinases have a common ATP binding pocket ⁵⁸. Thus exploring the polypharmacology of kinase inhibitors is mandatory in any assay seeking to discover new kinase inhibitors⁵². In the study in question we first collected 2383 complex structures from 208 kinases to use as a kinase dataset ³⁵. Then, a set of comparable Fs-IFP-encoded interaction fingerprints from all kinase-ligand complexes were obtained following the Fs-IFP protocol (i.e., binding-site alignments, encoding the IFP of every complex, and systematic Fs-IFP fingerprints, Figure 1c). Subsequetly, the binding characteristics of diverse inhibitors in the ATP binding pocket and/or its vicinity could be classified across the whole human kinome. The kinase binding patterns could be clustered into 5 classes with corresponding binding features and positions (Figure 2a).

The largest group of kinase inhibitors are of type Cluster5, which occupy the ATP binding pocket (Figure 2b). This type of ATP-competitive inhibitor forms conserved interactions with the residues distributed in the Hinge region, β 3, and β 7 in the vicinity of the adenine moiety of ATP (Figure 2b). To achieve greater binding affinity than ATP, kinase inhibitors often occupy the Cluster5 region but also extend into other proximal clusters as shown in Figure 2a (Cluster1-4)³⁵. For example, Imatinib ⁵⁹, a Type-II tyrosine kinase inhibitor used to treat several cancers, not only occupies the ATP-binding region (Cluster5) but also extends into the hydrophobic area close to the gatekeeper (Cluster1) and the region between the roof of the β 3 and DFG tripeptide (Cluster2, Figure 2a), the allosteric area (Cluster3, Figure 2a), and the area between the activation loop and C-Helix (Cluster4, Figure 2a). Similarly, the Type-I kinase drug Lapatinib (Figure 2c), an EGFR/HER2 inhibitor to treat breast cancer and other solid tumors⁶⁰, mainly binds to the ATP binding site (Cluster5) but also extends into the hydrophobic region (Cluster1, Figure 2c). In contrast, the back cleft of the binding pocket close to the ATP binding site is used to design allosteric inhibitors. For example, the Type-III kinase drug Cobimetinib⁶¹ (Figure 2d), a MEK inhibitor to treat melanoma, binds mainly to the back cleft of the binding pockets which includes the main allosteric region (Cluster3) and the vicinal areas (Cluster1 and 2). Further, the piperidine group of Cobimetinib extends into the distal region of the ATP binding site (Cluster5).

Another example involved antivirus drug discovery revealing the binding modes of 47 RNA viruses⁶²; pertinent during a COVID-19-induced pandemic. We focused on RNA-dependent RNA polymerase found in 47 distinct RNA viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, obtaining the binding sites for further drug screening⁶². Using the same Fs-IFP approach, we obtained the features of the binding pockets for the 47 RNA viruses, classifying them into four classes. Virtual screening was then undertaken ⁶³.

Uncovering specific interaction features for designing precise inhibitors

Revealing specific intermolecular atomic interactions is an obvious advantage of interaction fingerprints ⁵⁴. For example, when an electrostatic interaction occurs between an amino acid and an inhibitor within a binding site we can determine more detailed information about which atoms are involved in the interaction and how the interaction is formed within the binding site. In practice, Zhao et al. utilized the Fs-IFP approach to determine which cysteines are available across the human kinome to facilitate the discovery of covalent kinase inhibitors, knowing that covalent kinase inhibitors substantially improve the binding affinity and selectivity across the whole kinome ^{64,65}.

To do so, the authors first collected 1599 complex structures belonging to 169 kinases that have at least one cysteine residue located within the binding sites. The authors then analyzed the interaction details between all these cysteines and their corresponding ligands. The analysis revealed that cysteines exhibit two kinds of interaction: hydrogen-bond interactions (21.4%) from the backbone atoms N and O and hydrophobic interactions (78.6%) from the other atoms: C, CA, CB, and SG (**Figure** 3a-b). Combined with the calculation of the potential energy surface between the cysteine thiol group and the warhead using *ab initio* DFT force fields, the authors demonstrated the orientation and reactivity of the thiol group for every cysteine. The authors verified the top 5 easily-available regions: the roof region of β 3, P-loop area, front-pocket area, the catalytic loop (called: Catalytic-2), and a position near the DFG peptide (called DFG-3) across the human kinome (**Figure** 3c). These insights into cysteine-related covalent reactivity enable the design and discovery of prospective covalent kinase inhibitors.

As of April 2022, more than 70 small-molecule kinase drugs have been approved by the FDA including eight covalent drugs^{66,67}; 5 target EGFR and 3 target BTK (**Table** 2). All of these drugs

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form a covalent interaction with their respective targets in the front-pocket (Figure 3c). For example, Osimertinib⁶⁸, an EGFR kinase inhibitor to treat patients with advanced T790M-mutation-positive NSCLC^{69,70}, forms two hydrogen bonds with Met793 in the Hinge region and has an electrophilic acrylamide group that forms an irreversible covalent interaction with Cys797 in the front pocket of the ATP binding site (Figure 3d), leading to irreversible inhibition of the T790M-mutant EGFR with a nanomolar-level IC50⁷¹. Given the abundance of cysteines around the binding sites of kinase domains⁶⁵, covalent kinase inhibitor development is promising and will likely attract further attention⁵⁵.

Developing novel inhibitors across the proteome

Knowledge-based drug discovery is another application illustrating the potential of the Fs-IFP approach. Here we used the Fs-IFP approach to discover allosteric kinase inhibitors ⁷². Currently, different types of kinase inhibitors have been reported and occupy different areas of the binding pockets^{66,73}. Type-I kinase inhibitors, also called ATP-competitive kinase inhibitors, occupy ATP binding areas located in the front cleft of the kinase binding site, specifically the space between the Hinge region, hydrophobic pocket, P-loop, and DFG peptide (Figure 4a)⁵⁸. Type-II kinase inhibitors occupy the front cleft where ATP binds, but also extend into the nearby allosteric region (Figure 4b). The allosteric region is not so conserved as the ATP-binding pocket, ^{55,74}, thus, making exploiting kinase allosteric regions is one promising strategy for achieving desirable selectivity across the whole kinome⁷⁵. Allosteric kinase inhibitors targeting MEK⁷², P38α⁷⁶, BRAF⁷⁷, and EGFR⁷⁸ have been reported with most focus on mitogen-activated protein kinase (MEK). Indeed, as of now, all of the approved allosteric drugs are MEK-targeted⁷³. Zhao et al. sought to explore the MEK-allosteric-inhibitor binding features intent on designing allosteric kinase inhibitors against other kinases besides MEK.

First, the authors studied the binding characteristics of all MEK-allosteric-inhibitor complexes from 29 PDB structures and their associated conformations from 1.2 μ s molecular dynamics simulation⁷². Then, binding characteristics were described using the Fs-IFP approach combined with pharmacophore modeling. The authors confirmed that MEK allosteric inhibitors always form two conserved interactions with residues S212 and K97 (**Figure** 4c). Moreover, the authors found that all conformations from the MEK MD trajectories contained a conserved short helix within the activation loop (**Figure** 4c). The PDB structures of P38 α and BRAF (PDB ids 2yix, 4pp7, and 4wo5) also contained a short helix within the same segment of the activation loop⁷². Based on these binding characteristics, the authors predicted which kinase targets hold promise for allosteric inhibitor design (**Figure** 4d). From those predictions, of the top 15 kinase targets, 10 including MEK belong to the STE group, 3 (MAST 1-3) from the AGC group, 1 (JAK3) from the TK group, and 1 (NRBP1) from the Other group, indicating promising targets in the search for Type-III allosteric kinase inhibitors.

Demonstrating drug-resistant mechanisms

Targeted drug therapy is playing an increasingly important role in cancer treatment. For instance, lung cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide, with 80-85% being non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with 3-5% of those patients having gene fusions of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK). Thus, targeting ALK is important in treating NSCLC⁷⁹. However, due to acquired genetic mutations, drug resistance weakens the efficacy of anti-cancer drugs. Thus, revealing the mechanisms of drug resistance is crucial in facilitating the development of next-generation anticancer drugs. Here, we used the Fs-IFP scheme combined with the investigation of binding free energy surfaces to determine the drug's mechanism of action⁸⁰, facilitating the development of next-generation anti-cancer drugs.

Specifically, Crizotinib is a first-generation ALK drug to treat NSCLC, but the gatekeeper mutation (L1196) of ALK impacts the treatment of NSCLC in the clinic. We first aligned the Crizotinib-binding ALK PDB structures before and after L1196M mutation. The alignment of complexed structures shows that Crizotinib is a Type-I ALK inhibitor and that binding modes are similar before and after L1196M mutation (Figure 5a). Therefore, we explored the drug binding mechanism before and after residue mutations by calculating binding free energy surfaces. Subsequently, the atom-level Fs-IFPs were obtained for every conformation to investigate the differences in drug binding before and after mutation. Upon Fs-IFP analysis, the mechanism of L1196M-induced drug resistance was revealed. Crizotinib has significantly weaker interactions with A1123, A1125, and G1226 of the P-loop after L1196M mutation (Figure 5c). Thus, drug resistance of Crizotinib is associated with the change of residue interactions within a segment of the P-loop. Subsequently, using the same Fs-IFP method, we explored the binding mechanism of Ceritinib, which is a second-generation drug designed to overcome the L1196M mutation (Figure 5b). Ceritinib is also a Type-I ALK inhibitor and we found that Ceritinib overcomes the L1196M mutation by strengthening the corresponding interactions with the P-loop residues (Figure 5d). Given this example, the systematic application of the Fs-IFP method combined with umbrella sampling and free energy calculations is a promising approach for revealing the mechanisms underpinning drug resistance.

Summary and discussion

The Fs-IFP approach shows promise in drug design and discovery^{35,62,64,72,80,81}. Specifically, the approach encodes the interaction features of any given protein-ligand complex into a bit string, facilitating large-scale data analyses. Furthermore, the binding-site alignments are based on a

sequence-order-independent structure comparison method, which allows us to explore similar targets but with different sequences across the proteome⁸². The comparable binary IFPs, based on the matched residues within the binding sites, offer a convenient means to analyze binding modes and train machine/deep learning models^{32,38}.

Drug resistance is a major limitation in which the efficacy of targeted drug therapy is significantly attenuated in clinical trials and beyond. Uncovering the different protein-ligand interactions of wild-type and mutants at the atomic level provides a pragmatic strategy for determining drug binding and/or drug-resistant mechanisms. Using interaction fingerprints before and after the conferral of drug resistance is an effective approach for developing next-generation anti-resistant drugs through a combination of the Fs-IFP approach combined with other approaches, such as free energy surface calculations.

Current drug discovery requires analysis of complicated drug-target-disease interaction networks and is thus omics in scale. The Fs-IFP approach provides omics level data through aligned interaction fingerprints revealing details of target-drug interaction networks. As illustrated here, for kinase drug discovery, selectivity across the whole kinome remains challenging even though huge advances have been made leading to more than 70 FDA-approved kinase-targeted drugs ⁷³. The next challenge would seem to be combining comparable fingerprints via the Fs-IFP approach with machine/deep learning models to predict polypharmacology. In so doing, we anticipate that early-stage drug discovery will be faster and more effective.

It is worth noting that the S-IFP-related approaches, including Fs-IFP, rely on pre-existing protein-ligand complex resources. The quality and quantity of available protein-ligand complexes directly effects the analysis and application of structure-activity relationships for given targets. With the development of structural biology technologies, such as Cryo-EM⁸³ and AlphaFold2⁸⁴,

more protein structures will be available to support the application of the IFP method. A further limitation of S-IFP methods is how to accurately detect and encode the protein-ligand interactions. Currently, detecting whether or not protein-ligand interaction patterns exist is based on pre-defined geometric rules. The pre-defined geometric criteria limit means some interaction types are not counted, such as metal interactions. Pre-defining more interaction patterns is needed. Recently an extended connectivity fingerprint (ECFP) has been applied to encode all atom/bond interaction types based on every pair of interatomic interactions between ligand and protein substructures⁴⁷⁻ ⁵¹. The ECFP-based IFPs are costly to apply to determine polypharmacology across the structural proteome due to their enormous fingerprint sizes⁴⁷. Another geometric limitation of S-IFP-related methods is the geometric rules to pre-define the hydrogen-bond interaction, electrostatic interaction, and so on.²⁹ For example, using a Euclidean distance ≤ 4.0 Å as the threshold to detect intermolecular ionic interactions²⁹. Simplistic, yet hard cut-off rules may ignore some marginal interactions. This is offset to some extent by undertaking molecular dynamics (MD) simulation to provide flexible ligand-binding features⁸⁰. By collecting all the interaction fingerprints of every conformation along with the MD trajectories, the IFP is more robust since minor interactions around the cut-off boundary will be detected due to the flexible protein-ligand interactions⁸⁰.

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Legend:

Figure 1. (a) 7 types of interactions encoded for every binding pocket residue using the S-IFP approach. (b) 11 types of interactions encoded in the IFP approach from the Rognan group. "1" indicates the interaction exists and "0" indicates no interaction with the residue. (c) A flowchart of the Fs-IFP approach.

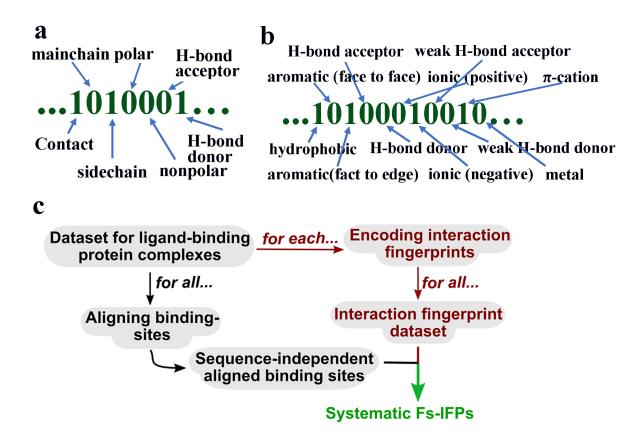
Figure 2. (a). The binding clusters mapped to the tyrosine kinase Imatinib (green) complex (PDB id: 4CSV) (b). Residues with conserved interactions with bioactive ligands. The spheres 1-5 correspond to residues in the Hinge region, β 3, and β 7 (PDB id: 4AN2). (c). The binding clusters of the Type-I kinase Lapatinib (red) complex (PDB id: 3BBT). (d) The binding clusters of Type-III kinase drug Cobimetinib (red) complex (PDB id: 7JUS).

Figure 3. (a) The six non-hydrogen atoms of cysteine. (b). The contribution of each atom to ligand interactions. (c) The locations of top 5 easily-available cysteines (PDB template: 3BYU). (d). The covalent binding mode of Osimertinib (PDB id: 6JXT).

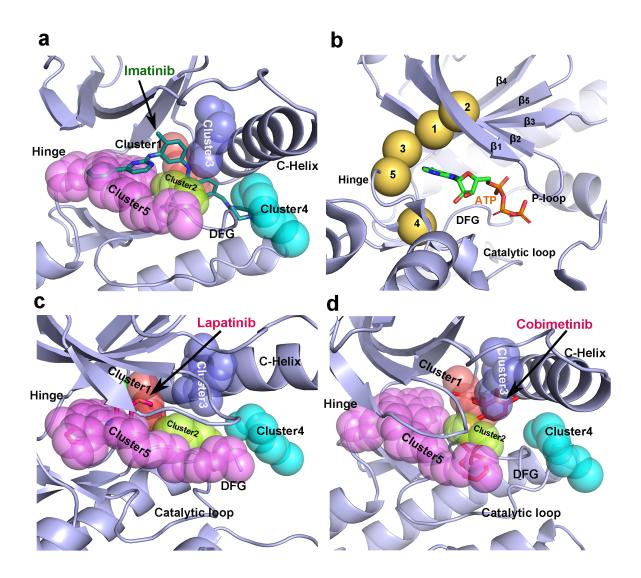
Figure 4. (a) The binding mode of Type-I kinase inhibitors (PDB id: 4w9x, a JAK-Baricitinib complex structure). (b) The binding mode of Type-II kinase inhibitors (PDB id: 4CSV, an SRC-ABL-Imatinib complex). (c) The binding modes of allosteric inhibitors targeting MEK (PDB id: 4AN2). (d). The top 15 predicted kinases targets suitable for allosteric inhibitor design using the TREEspot software (www.discoverx.com).

Figure 5. (a). The similar binding characteristics of Crizotinib in the ALK binding site before and after the L1196M mutation (PDB ids: 2XP2 and 2YFX). (b) Ceritinib-bound ALK complex (PDB ID: 3MKC). (c) The changes of Fs-IFPs in the Crizotinib-bound state before and after L1196M mutation in the ALK-Crizotinib system. (d) The changes of Fs-IFPs in the Ceritinib-bound state before and after L1196M mutation in the ALK-Ceritinib system. An asterisk indicates a significant difference (p-value <0.001).

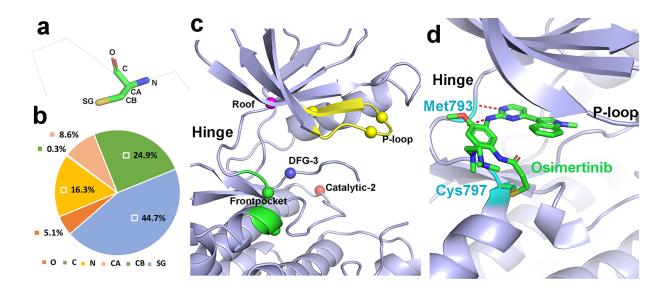
Figure 1



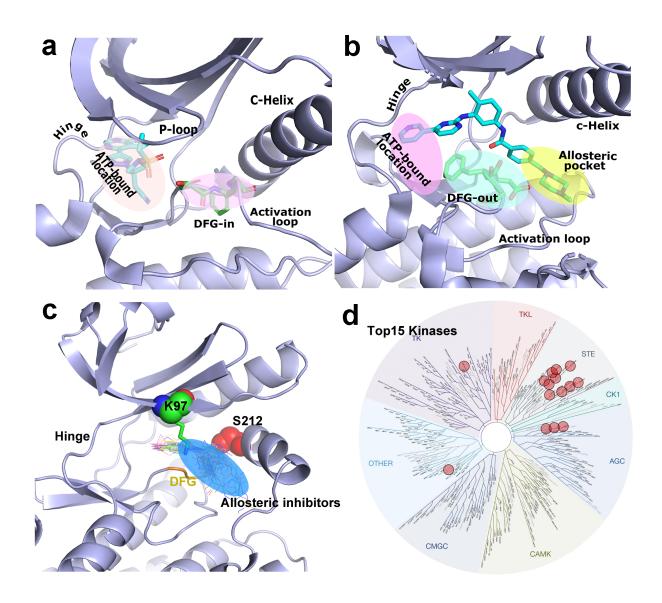




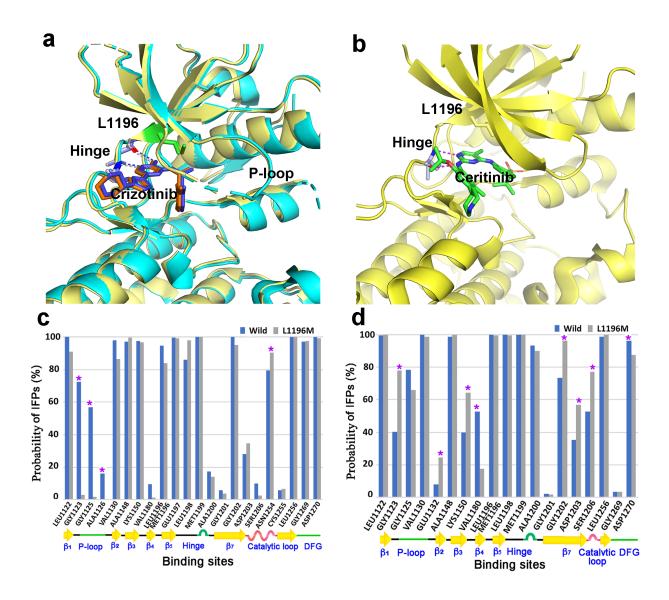












DRUGS	DISEASES	TARGETS	
ALISKIREN	Hypertension	Renin	
AMPRENAVIR	AIDS	HIV-1 protease	
BETRIXABAN	Cardiovascular disease	Serine protease factor Xa	
BRIGATINIB	Non-small cell lung cancer	Anaplastic lymphoma kinas	
BOCEPREVIR	Hepatitis C virus	Proteases	
CAPTOPRIL	Hypertension or high BP Angiotensin-converting enz		
CRIZOTINIB	Non-small cell lung cancer	Anaplastic lymphoma kinas	
DORZOLAMIDE	Glaucoma	Carbonic anhydrase II	
ENFUVIRTIDE	HIV-1 infection	HIV protein	
GRAZOPREVIR	Hepatitis C virus	NS3/4a protease	
INDINAVIR	AIDS	Proteases of HIV1 and HIV 2	
LOSARTAN	Hypertension	Angiotensin II antagonist	
NELFINAVIR	AIDS	HIV-1 protease	
NILOTINIB	Chronic myeloid leukemia	Bcr-Abl tyrosine kinase	
NORFLOXACIN	Urinary tract infections and prostatitis	DNA gyrase	
OSELTAMIVIR	Influenza	Neuraminidase	
RALTEGRAVIR	AIDS	HIV integrase	
RITONAVIR	AIDS	Proteases of HIV1 and HIV 2	
RUCAPARIB	Advanced ovarian cancer	Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase	
SAQUINAVIR	AIDS	Proteases of HIV1 and HIV 2	
SUNITINIB	Gastrointestinal stromal tumor	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor	
TIROFIBAN	Blood clots	Fibrinogen	
VABORBACTAM	Gram-negative bacteria	β-lactamase	
VALSARTAN	High blood pressure, heart failure, and diabetic kidney disease	Angiotensin receptor II antagonist	
ZANAMIVIR	Influenza A and influenza B	Neuraminidase	
ZOLMITRIPTA	Migraine	Serotonin receptor agonist	

Table 1. The approved drugs by using computer-aided drug discovery strategies.

Drugs	Approved Date	Primary targets	Nucleophilic residues	Locations of nucleophilic residues	PDB IDs
Afatinib	2013/07	EGFR	Cys797	Frontpocket	4G5J
Ibrutinib	2013/11	BTK	Cys481	Frontpocket	5P9J
Osimertinib	2015/11	EGFR	Cys797	Frontpocket	6JXT
Acalabrutinib	2017/10	BTK	Cys481	Frontpocket	-
Neratinib	2017/06	EGFR	Cys797	Frontpocket	2JIV
Dacomitinib	2018/09	EGFR	Cys797	Frontpocket	4I24
Zanubrutinib	2019/11	BTK	Cys481	Frontpocket	6J6M
Mobocertinib	2021/09	EGFR	Cys797	Frontpocket	-

Table 2. The FDA-approved covalent kinase inhibitors until April 2022.