Oncogenic mutations of *PIK3CA* lead to increased membrane recruitment driven by reorientation of the ABD, p85 and C-terminus

Meredith L Jenkins[1], Harish Ranga-Prasad[1], Matthew AH Parson[1], Noah J Harris[1], Manoj K Rathinaswamy[1], John E Burke[1,2%]

[1]Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 2Y2, Canada

[2]Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z3, Canada

Running title: Dynamic allosteric changes upon activation of oncogenic *PIK3CA*

[%]To whom correspondence should be addressed: John E. Burke

Tel: 1-250-721-8732, email: jeburke@uvic.ca

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Abstract

PIK3CA encoding the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) p110α catalytic subunit

is frequently mutated in cancer, with mutations occurring widely throughout the primary

sequence. The full set of mechanisms underlying how PI3Ks are activated by all

oncogenic mutations on membranes are unclear. Using a synergy of biochemical

assays and hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS), we reveal

unique regulatory mechanisms underlying PI3K activation. Engagement of p110α on

membranes leads to disengagement of the ABD of p110α from the catalytic core, and

the C2 domain from the iSH2 domain of the p85 regulatory subunit. PI3K activation also

requires reorientation of the p110α C-terminus, with mutations that alter the inhibited

conformation of the C-terminus increasing membrane binding. Mutations at the C-

terminus (M1043I/L, H1047R, G1049R, and N1068KLKR) activate p110α through

distinct mechanisms, with this having important implications for mutant selective

inhibitor development. This work reveals unique mechanisms underlying how PI3K is

activated by oncogenic mutations, and explains how double mutants can synergistically

increase PI3K activity.

Introduction

Activating mutations in the gene *PIK3CA*, which encodes the class IA

phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) catalytic subunit p110α are among the most common

mutations across human cancers[1–4]. Class I PI3Ks are composed of four isoforms

(class IA [p110α, p110β, p110δ] and class IB [p110γ]), which together generate the lipid

second messenger phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5 trisphosphate (PIP$_3$) downstream of

multiple cell surface receptors, including receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs), G-protein

coupled receptors (GPCRs), and Ras superfamily GTPases. PIP$_3$ recruits multiple

effectors, including kinases and regulators of G protein signalling which play critical

roles in regulating growth, survival, proliferation, and metabolism[5–7].

PI3Kα is a heterodimer composed of a p110α catalytic subunit and a p85

regulatory subunit, of which there are 5 isoforms: p85α, p55α and p50α (encoded by

PIK3R1), p85β (encoded by *PIK3R2*) and p55γ (encoded by *PIK3R3*). The class IA

regulatory subunits play three key roles in regulating class IA PI3Ks: they stabilize and

inhibit the p110 catalytic subunits[8,9], and they allow for activation through the direct

engagement of the nSH2 and cSH2 domains of regulatory subunits with pYXXM motifs

in RTKs[10]. In unstimulated cells, the p110α protein is kept in an inactive and stable

cytosolic configuration due to its interactions with the regulatory subunit, with full

activation and membrane recruitment of the PI3Kα complex requiring binding to both

GTP loaded Ras, and engagement of both the nSH2 and cSH2 of regulatory subunits

by bis-phosphorylated pYXXM motifs present in RTKs and their adaptors[11–13]. However,

the full molecular mechanisms underpinning activation and membrane binding of class

IA PI3K, and how oncogenic mutants alter this are not completely understood.

Extensive biochemical and biophysical studies have revealed how p110α is

inhibited by regulatory subunits[14–20]. The p110α catalytic subunit is composed of five

domains (an Adaptor Binding Domain (ABD), Ras Binding Domain (RBD), C2, helical,

and a bi-lobal kinase domain)[14,21] (Fig. 1A). The RBD, C2, helical, and kinase domains

together form the catalytic core of PI3Ks, which is conserved through the class I, II, and

III PI3Ks[22,23]. The ABD of class IA PI3Ks binds irreversibly to the iSH2 coiled coil

domain present in all class IA regulatory subunits[15], and also forms an inhibitory intra-

subunit interface with the N-lobe of the kinase domain (Fig. 1A,1B). The iSH2 also

makes inhibitory contacts with the C2 and activation loop of the kinase domain[16,24]. The

nSH2 domain of regulatory subunits binds reversibly to the C2, helical and kinase

domains[15,17], with these contacts broken when the nSH2 binds to pYXXM motifs[19]. The

cSH2 of regulatory subunits is strictly required for high affinity association with bis-

phosphorylated receptors and their adaptors[11], and in p110β and p110δ forms an

inhibitory interface with the kinase domain, however, this interaction is either absent or

transient in p110α[25,26]. Recently Cryo-EM analysis of p110α bound to p85α showed that

upon binding to phosphopeptides there appeared to be complete disengagement of the

ABD and regulatory subunit from the catalytic core[27], which was not fully supported by

previous HDX-MS analysis of phosphopeptide binding[16,19]. However, disengagement of

the catalytic core from the ABD and regulatory subunits is consistent with HDX-MS

results studying PI3K membrane binding[12].

The *PIK3CA* and *PIK3R1* genes encoding p110α and p85α are both frequently

mutated in human cancers[1,2,28]. The majority of mutations lead to amino acid

substitutions (Fig. 1C)[29], although, more complex insertions and deletions also occur[30].

Oncogenic transformation by p85α mutations is driven by activation of the p110α

isoform[31]. For p110α the most frequent mutations are located at two hot spots located

at the helical-nSH2 interface (E542K, E545K) and the C-terminus of the kinase domain

(H1047R) (Fig. 1B). The E545K disrupts the nSH2-helical interface[15] while H1047R

alters the membrane binding surface of the kinase domain, and how the kinase domain

packs against the activation loop (Fig. 1D.1E)[17,32]. However, there also are relatively

high frequency mutations at the ABD-kinase interface, the ABD-RBD linker, the C2-

iSH2/C2-nSH2 interfaces, the putative membrane interface of the N-lobe with

membranes, and in a region of the kinase domain C-terminal to the activation loop,

referred to as the regulatory motif (Fig. 1C)[33]. We have previously found that oncogenic

mutations mimicked and enhanced conformational changes observed in the catalytic

cycle of WT PI3Kα[16], with different mutants showing unique conformational changes.

Different *PIK3CA* mutations activating through unique mechanisms is supported by the

discovery of tumours harbouring double *PIK3CA* mutations *in cis*, with these tumours

showing enhanced sensitivity to PI3K inhibition[34].

Here, using a combination of hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry

(HDX-MS) and kinase/membrane binding assays, we provide a molecular model for

how oncogenic mutants in p110α activate both kinase activity and membrane binding.

This has revealed the critical role of disengagement of the inhibitory contacts of the

ABD domain and the p85 regulatory subunit, as well as the importance of reorganisation

of the membrane binding C-terminus in PI3K activation. Intriguingly, mutations at the C-

terminal tail activate PI3K through distinct molecular mechanisms and provides insight

into how this might be utilised for design of mutant selective inhibitors. Overall, this work

provides unique insight into the molecular mechanisms mediating PI3K activation by

oncogenic mutations.

Results

To investigate the role of the ABD domain / p85 regulatory subunit in controlling

PI3K enzyme activity, we needed a construct that allowed us to interrogate the dynamic

effects of full ABD disengagement. We engineered and purified the catalytic core of

p110α (106-1068, referred to as the p110α core) along with the full-length complex of

p110α-p85α (full set of all constructs purified in this manuscript shown in Fig. S1, and

SDS-page gels in Fig. S2). Initial attempts to purify the p110α core construct were

unsuccessful, and we were only able to successfully purify this construct when it

contained a kinase dead mutation (D915N). To validate that the D915N p110α construct

did not cause any significant changes in protein conformation or membrane binding, we

carried out HDX-MS experiments on WT and kinase dead p110α-p85α complexes

bound to a PDGFR bis-phosphorylated pY peptide (referred to going forward as pY)

composed of PDGFR residues 735–767 with phosphorylation present at Y740 and

Y751 in the presence and absence of membrane vesicles (5% PIP$_2$, 30% PS, 65% PE,

referred to afterwards as PIP$_2$/PS/PE). HDX-MS is a technique that measures the

exchange rate of amide hydrogens, and as the rate is dependent on the presence and

stability of secondary structure, it is an excellent probe of protein conformational

dynamics, and we have extensively used it to study PI3K activation[11,12,16,19,25]. There

were no significant changes in conformation in the kinase dead p110α compared to

wild-type, and both had equivalent membrane binding to lipid membranes (Fig. S3),

highlighting the suitability of this mutant for membrane binding and HDX-MS studies.

We carried out HDX-MS experiments to identify conformational changes that

occur in the catalytic core of p110α upon removal of the ABD and p85α regulatory

subunit. We compared H/D exchange differences for both the p110α core and the full-

length complex of p110α-p85α. The full details of HDX-MS data processing are in Table

S1, with all raw HDX-MS data for all time points available in the source data. For the

p110α core construct there was significantly increased exchange (for all HDX-MS

experiments this is defined as differences at any time point >5%, >0.4 Da, and a p-value

less than 0.01 for a two-tailed t-test) in the ABD-RBD linker (114-119), C2 domain (347-

355 and 444-475), helical domain (524-551), N-lobe of the kinase domain (691-697,

735-744), the activation loop (930-937) and the C-lobe of the kinase domain (1002-

1013) (Fig. 2A-D,S4A-B). All significant differences in the catalytic core of p110α were in

regions that were either in contact with ABD or p85α. This dataset allowed us to

compare changes to those we previously observed upon membrane recruitment by both

pY, and membrane bound Ras of the full length p110α-p85α complex (Fig. 2B)[12].

Intriguingly, we find that the region of the ABD-RBD linker in contact with the ABD

domain (114-119) had similar increases in exchange between WT p110α-p85α and

either the p110α core or upon pY/HRas mediated membrane recruitment (Fig. 2D).

There is a small increase in exchange in this region upon pY binding alone, but this was

minor compared to the effect upon membrane binding[16,19]. The increase in region 114-

119 was greater when bound to pY/HRas membranes compared to pY mediated

membrane binding alone, suggesting this increase is dependent on the amount of

membrane binding (Fig. 2D). This is also the case for increases in exchange observed

upon membrane binding in the N-terminal and C-terminal ends of the iSH2 domain that

are in contact with the C2 domain (470-476, 556-570, Fig S4E), showing the clear link

between increases in the ABD-RBD linker and at the C2-iSH2 interface.

This data comparing the full-length heterodimer vs p110α core allowed us to

define the effect of ABD removal on the contact site at the ABD-RBD linker. This region

still is protected from exchange at early time points, suggesting presence of secondary

structure, however, it is much more dynamic in the absence of the ABD. Comparing this

to previous HDX-MS experiments examining pY-Ras membrane recruitment of p110α -

p85α[12], showed that the exchange rate of the core is similar to the p110α-p85α

membrane bound state, suggesting a correlative ABD disengagement occurring with

membrane binding. This is supported by our previous observation of increased

membrane binding for oncogenic mutants at the C2-iSH2 or ABD interfaces (N345K,

G106V and G118D) that would be expected to promote ABD / iSH2 disengagement[16].

An important note is that this data does not support complete dissociation of the p110-

p85 complex (due to the extremely high affinity interaction of the ABD to the iSH2[35]), but

instead the ABD-p85 becoming mobile relative to the p110α catalytic core.

Enhanced membrane binding of p110α catalytic core

Our hypothesis that disengagement of the ABD and the regulatory subunit p85α

subunit is required for membrane binding suggested that there should be differential

membrane binding of the p110α core compared to full length p110α/p85α. We used

protein-lipid Fluorescent Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) assays (Fig. 3A) to

compare membrane recruitment of p110α core to full length p110α-p85α in the

presence and absence of 1 μM pY. This assay was carried out on two different lipids:

one optimised for maximal PI3K recruitment (5% PIP_2, 10% Dansyl-PS, 25 % PS and

60 % PE, Fig. 3B), and another roughly mimicking the plasma membrane (5% PIP_2,

10% Dansyl PS, 15 % PS, 40% PE, 15% PC, 10% cholesterol, and 5% sphingomyelin,

Fig. S4E). While pY was required for robust binding of full length p110α-p85α, it was

dispensable for p110α core association, which is expected due to the lack of SH2

domains required for pY binding (Fig. 3B). The p110α core showed increased

membrane recruitment for both lipid mixtures compared to the pY activated p110α/p85α

complex. To determine the role of free p85α in PI3K membrane recruitment, we also

purified recombinant free p85α and analyzed the protein-lipid FRET signal. There was a

weak FRET signal for p85α alone, with only a small change upon pY binding (Fig 3B,

Fig S4F). This signal was significantly lower than the p110α/p85α complex, indicating

that the p110α catalytic core is fully capable of membrane binding in the absence of

p85α.

Defining the membrane binding surface of p110α core

We have extensively characterised the membrane binding of the p110α/p85α

complex using HDX-MS, however, the disengagement of the ABD and p85 from the

catalytic core has likely complicated the analysis of membrane binding regions. We

carried out HDX-MS experiments of p110α core in the presence and absence of 5%

PIP_2/PS/PE membranes to fully understand the molecular underpinnings of p110α

membrane binding. We observed protection in the ABD-RBD linker (114-119), C2 (343-

355), N-lobe kinase domain (713-734,735-744,799-811 and 850-859), Activation loop

(930-961) and the C-terminus of the C-lobe kinase domain (1039-1055 and 1056-1068)

(Fig. 3A-C). The largest differences occurred in the C-terminus, and N-lobe, with only

minor differences in the C2 domain. However, the region of the C2 domain that interacts

with membrane has limited secondary structure (see Fig S4D), which can make tracking

transient membrane differences using HDX challenging. Previous HDX-MS experiments

testing N345K p110α-p85α binding to membranes showed this same region being

protected by membranes[16]. Overall, this supports a model where p110α binds

membrane at a surface composed of the C2 domain, the kα1-kα2 helices (720-744) and

the 859-872 region of the N-lobe, the activation loop, along with the C-terminal tail.

Intriguingly, the kα1-kα2 helices in the N-lobe interact with the ABD, and the 343-355

region of the C2 domain binds the N+C termini of the iSH2 domain, which provides a

putative molecular explanation for why disengagement of the ABD and p85 leads to

increased membrane association.

When comparing our data to the full set of missense oncogenic mutations in the

ABD, ABD-RBD linker, C2, helical, and the N-lobe of the kinase domain we find that all

mutations found in >30 tumours except one (E726K) are located at either the ABD or

p85 interfaces. We had previously observed that mutations in the ABD-RBD linker

caused similar conformational changes to those located at the C2-iSH2 interface, with

this being explained by both mutations leading to disengagement of the ABD and p85

from the catalytic core[16].

Biochemical analysis of oncogenic mutations in the inhibitory C-terminus

While the disengagement of the ABD and p85 being involved in membrane

binding provides a molecular rationale for activation by oncogenic mutations in the ABD,

C2, and helical domains, it does not fully explain the molecular mechanism of mutations

in the C-lobe of the kinase domain. Our previous HDX-MS analysis of the kinase

domain mutant, H1047R, showed increased exposure throughout regions of the N-lobe

and C-lobe of the kinase domain, with this resulting in a dramatic increase in membrane

binding[16]. In high resolution structures the C-terminus of p110α makes extensive

contacts with helices that make up the regulatory motif (kα8 and kα11) and sits on top of

the C-terminus of the activation loop (Fig. 1E)[36–39]. One of the primary interactions is an

extensive interface between Trp1051 of the C-terminus and His1047 as well as

hydrophobic residues lining kα8 and kα11 of the kinase domain (Met1043, Phe977,980

and 1039). This region is also in contact with Leu956 in the C-terminal end of the

activation loop. This orientation positions the membrane binding WIF motif (residues

1057-1059) distant from the membrane binding interface. When comparing these WT

p110α structures to the H1047R crystal structure (3HHM), there is a significant

reorganisation of the C-terminus, with all contacts between the C-terminus and kα8 and

kα11 disrupted, and the WIF motif oriented at the putative membrane surface (Fig.

1D,E)[17]. However, many features of this structure are likely artefactual, and driven by

crystal packing, as recent Cryo-EM structures did not observe this difference[32].

To understand the regulatory mechanisms underlying the inhibitory interface with

the C-terminus we analysed the most frequent oncogenic mutants that occur at or near

this interface. While H1047R/L is the most frequent mutation (>6000 from the COSMIC

database), there are multiple frequent missense mutations in this region, including

M1043L/I/V (>300), G1049R/S (>150), and N1044K/S (>80). In addition, we analyzed

an activating frameshift variant that alters the C-terminus by replacing the terminal N

with a KLKR extension, which was recently identified in tumour samples (N1068KLKR,

referred to afterwards as N1068fs)[30]. To understand if these mutants were activated in

a similar way to H1047R, we purified the four p110α mutant complexes (M1043L,

H1047R, G1049R, and N1068fs) all bound to full length p85α.

We characterised the intrinsic ATPase activity of each p110α mutant (Fig. 4A+B),

and while this assay does not measure biologically relevant PIP$_3$ activity, it can measure

intrinsic differences in PI3K activity independent of membrane binding. H1047R,

G1049R, and M1043L had significantly increased ATPase activity compared to WT (Fig.

4A+B). However, the N1068fs mutants showed no increase in ATPase activity

compared to WT. This suggested a possible conformational difference between

M1043L, H1047R, and G1049R compared to N1068fs.

For these mutants, we had difficulty in obtaining sufficient yield of the proteins for

extensive biophysical analysis. To circumvent this, we used the kinase dead variants to

characterize their membrane binding using protein-lipid FRET using both PM mimic and

optimised binding lipids. Membrane binding was enhanced for mutants upon addition of

pY, with greater binding for the optimised lipids over the PM mimic (Fig. S5D). H1047R,

G1049R, and N1068fs all showed significantly increased membrane binding over WT

both with and without pY (Fig. 4C), while the M1043L mutant only showed a slight

increase in membrane binding without pY for the PM mimic vesicles (Fig. 4C). This

clustered the mutants into three groups, H1047R and G1049R which increased basal

ATPase and membrane binding, M1043L which increased basal ATPase with only a

limited effect on membrane binding, and N1068fs which did not alter basal ATPase, but

did increase membrane binding.

Conformational changes in oncogenic mutations C-terminus of the kinase domain

To test if C-terminal mutations worked by disrupting the inhibitory interaction with

the C-terminus, we carried out HDX-MS studies on six constructs of full length p110α

(WT, M1043L, H1047R, G1049R, N1068fs, and a construct lacking the C-terminus (1-

1048, referred to afterwards as ΔCter), all bound to full length p85α. The use of the

ΔCter construct allowed for a direct comparison of removal of the C-terminus, versus a

possible reorientation upon oncogenic mutation. We used kinase active M1043L,

H1047R, G1049R, and a kinase dead variant of N1068fs for this comparison.

HDX-MS experiments were carried out for 4-5 timepoints of exchange (3 s at

1°C, 3, 30, 300, and 3000 s at 20°C) for each complex. The full set of all peptides

analysed for both p110α and p85α are shown in the Source data, with peptide

exchange data presented in Fig. S5. The changes observed for H1047R matched

almost exactly our previous studies[16], but this experiment expanded the HDX time

course, allowing for a more in-depth analysis of perturbations in conformation.

The H1047R, G1049R, and the ΔCter constructs showed similar significant

increases compared to the WT in the kinase domain (Fig. 5A-C). These included

regions covering 850-858 (hinge between the N and C lobes), the activation loop (930-

956), and helices spanning the regulatory arch (1014-1021 in kα10, 1021-1038 in kα11)

(Fig. 5A-C). Many of these regions correspond directly to the contact site between the

C-terminus and kα11. This validates the inhibitory interaction observed in the 4OVU

crystal structure, with this interface stabilising helix kα11 and the activation loop. One

region in kα8 (962-980) showed a significant change between H1047R, G1049R and

WT, which was not observed comparing WT and ΔCter. This helix contacts both the C-

terminus and kα11. A possible mechanism explaining this difference is the rotation that

occurs in kα11 upon mutation of H1047R. Structures of free p110α lacking the C-

terminus do not show this same rotation of the kα11 helix. The rotation of kα11 would

alter the interface between kα8 and kα11, leading to increased exchange in kα8. This

could be driven by a unique orientation of the C-terminus packing against kα7 in the

H1047R or G1049R mutant, which would be lost in the absence of the C-terminus as

would occur in the ΔCter protein. Overall, this data suggests that H1047R and G1049R

lead to activation through disruption of the inhibitory conformation of the C-terminal tail,

which reorients the lipid binding WIF motif at the membrane binding surface. Both

M1043L and N1068fs showed no significant differences compared to WT, suggesting

these mutants do not disrupt the inhibitory C-terminal conformation (Fig. 5D+E).

We also compared HDX-MS differences in full-length p110α-p85α between WT,

H1047R and ΔC in the presence and absence of pY (Fig. S6). The binding of pY led to

significant increases for all three constructs at interfaces that have been previously

described (ABD-RBD linker, C2-iSH2, nSH2-helical). However, intriguingly there were

unique differences upon pY binding for the ΔCter and H1047R constructs at the

interface of the regulatory arch with the nSH2 domain (1014-1021, kα10). This is

intriguing as it suggests that the opening of this portion of the regulatory motif only

occurs upon both disengagement of the nSH2 domain (mediated by pY binding) and

disengagement of the inhibitory C-terminus (Fig. S6).

Discussion

Understanding how p110α is regulated and how oncogenic *PIK3CA* mutants alter

this regulation is essential in the development of novel PI3K therapeutics. Due to the

critical homeostatic roles that WT p110α plays in growth, development, and

metabolism[40], as well as the cell intrinsic[41,42] and systematic[43] negative feedback loops

that oppose PI3K pharmacological inhibition, there are extensive advantages to

selectively targeting mutant p110α over WT p110α. Therefore, defining the exact

molecular basis underlying mutant specific conformational changes may reveal

opportunities for mutant-selective drug design. Oncogenic mutants in p110α span

multiple domains of the catalytic subunit, with foci occurring at the ABD, ABD-RBD

linker, C2-iSH2 interface, nSH2-helical interface, and the N+C lobes of the kinase

domain[44]. While most mis-sense oncogenic mutations discovered in tumours are at hot-

spot locations (E542K, E545K, H1047R), more than 25% of all mutations in *PIK3CA*

occur outside the hotspots. Extensive biochemical[16] and cellular experiments[45,46] have

defined that PIK3CA mutations activate lipid kinase activity by different mechanisms.

This together with the recent discovery that multiple mutations in PIK3CA occur *in cis*[34],

where hotspot and rare mutations are found in the same gene, highlights the need to

fully understand how multiple oncogenic mutations can synergically activate PI3K. Here

using a suite of biochemical and biophysical approaches we propose a unifying

molecular model for how all *PIK3CA* mutations can lead to increased kinase activity, as

well as how different oncogenic mutations *in cis* can increase oncogenicity.

We wanted to define how extensive oncogenic gain of function *PIK3CA*

mutations at both the ABD interface and the C2-iSH2 interface activate PI3K. The

critical role of the ABD in regulating p110α kinase activity was originally suggested by

its direct interaction with the N-lobe of the kinase domain[15,47]. We previously observed

exposure occurring at the ABD interface (ABD-RBD linker) upon phosphopeptide pY

binding[16,19], and more extensive exposure at the ABD interface upon membrane

binding[12,16]. Cryo EM analysis of p110α with p85α revealed disengagement of the ABD

and p85 subunit from the catalytic core of p110α upon binding phosphorylated

peptide[27]. To fully define the relative role of ABD disengagement in PI3K activation on

membranes we generated the p110α catalytic core and directly compared its exchange

to the full length p110α-p85α. Increased exposure was seen at all contact interfaces

with both p85 and the ABD. Intriguingly, we found that the p110α catalytic core (p110α

core) showed H/D exchange rates at the ABD-RBD linker that almost exactly matched

those observed upon Ras and pY mediated membrane binding of WT p110α-p85α[12].

Importantly, we did not observe similar rates when comparing phosphopeptide bound

p110α-p85α, suggesting that complete ABD disengagement only occurred when p110α

is membrane bound which is in contrast from what was suggested from the cryo-EM

model of PI3Kα in the presence of pY peptides.

We previously observed that mutations at the ABD interface exposed the C2-

iSH2 interface, and *vice versa*[16]. As the ABD will always remain tightly bound to the

iSH2 domain, its disengagement would likely occur simultaneously with disruption of the

C2-iSH2 interface. For these mutants, full disruption of the ABD and C2-iSH2 interfaces

occurred only upon removal of the nSH2 (through pY binding), with no requirement for

membrane. This reveals an unexpected inhibitory role of the nSH2 domain, whereby

packing against the helical, kinase, and C2 domains of p110α and the iSH2 of p85α, it

can stabilise the interface with the iSH2 domain, which prevents ABD disengagement

from the catalytic core of p110α. Intriguingly, ABD disengagement is likely involved in

membrane recruitment for all class IA PI3Ks, as HDX-MS experiments on membranes

showed exposure in the iSH2 and the ABD-RBD linker of p110β[48] and p110δ[25,49]. These

changes were also seen in primary immunodeficiency mutations of p110δ[50] and in

activating *PIK3R1* truncations at the N+C termini of the iSH2 involved in

immunodeficiencies and oncogenic transformation[11,49]. An interesting implication in this

model is that unique class IA regulatory subunits may have distinctive propensities for

ABD-p85 disengagement, which may partially explain a differential role for regulatory

subunits in oncogenic transformation[51]. This will require further study to investigate

regulatory subunit isoform differences in disengagement. Together this highlights the

key role of ABD disengagement in PI3K activation, and how oncogenic mutants can

alter this regulation.

We next wanted to understand how ABD and p85 disengagement is involved in

membrane binding of PI3K. We hypothesized that the free catalytic core of p110α may

more efficiently bind to lipid membranes. Our protein-lipid FRET experiments with the

p110α core showed enhanced membrane binding compared to the pY activated p110α-

p85α heterodimer, which was similar to our previous studies on the catalytic core

construct of p110δ[25]. To understand the mechanism for how this occurs we mapped the

membrane binding interface of p110α core using HDX-MS. We observed decreased

exchange at the C2 and the N-lobe and C-Lobe of the kinase domain. Many of these

changes were not observed in the full-length heterodimer upon binding membranes,

with these regions located at either the ABD (kα1-kα2 helices of N-lobe) or iSH2 (C2

domain) interfaces. This suggests that some of the membrane binding regions of p110α

are shielded by the ABD or p85 subunit, and disengagement of these regions allows for

efficient membrane binding. This model also suggests that the role of phosphopeptide

binding in membrane recruitment is two-fold as it both breaks an inhibitory contact

between the nSH2 and the regulatory motif of the kinase domain, and breaks the nSH2

contact with the helical domain, which weakens the interface of the ABD and p85

subunits with the catalytic core, exposing membrane binding surfaces of p110α (Fig.

6A).

One of the largest decreases in exchange observed upon membrane binding

was in the C-terminus of p110α, specifically at the membrane binding WIF motif. In high

resolution structures of inhibited p110α, the C-terminus is pointed away from the

putative membrane binding surface[36], with the C-terminus pointed towards the

membrane surface in the X-ray structure of H1047R p110α[17] due to a ~180 rotation at

the end of the kα11 helix. The C-terminus in the WT structures makes a set of contacts

the regulatory motif helices (kα8- kα11) located after the activation loop and contacts

the C-terminus of the activation loop. The regulatory motif helices and the C-terminus

encompass the activation loop and make extensive contacts proposed to maintain an

inactive conformation. The regulatory motif is also directly in contact with the nSH2

domain of regulatory subunits. Sequestering the C-terminus in a inhibited conformation

is a conserved aspect of regulation across all class I PI3Ks, with the inhibited

conformation of the C-terminus of p110β and p110δ binding to the cSH2 of regulatory

subunits[25,52], and p110γ having its C-terminus inhibited by an inhibitory Tryptophan lock

which does not require regulatory subunits[33]. Removal of the C-terminus causes a

substantial rearrangement of the activation loop, and a rotation of the kα11 helix[53]. Most

of the frequent mutations in the C-terminus of p110α would be expected to disrupt this

inhibitory contact, either through steric hindrance (M1043I/L, H1047R, G1049R) or

disruption of key hydrogen bonds (N1044S). One of the only frequent oncogenic

mutations that is not at either the regulatory C-terminus or an interface with the ABD or

p85 is located at the loop between kα1-kα2 in the N-lobe (E726K) in a location at the

membrane binding surface. This mutant likely drives increased lipid kinase activity

through enhanced membrane binding of negatively charged lipids through this charge

reversal mutant.

To test if conformational changes in H1047R were caused by disruption of the

inhibitory contacts with the C-terminus, we compared the H/D exchange rates of

H1047R and a deletion of the C-terminus to the WT protein. The H1047R and C-

terminal deletion showed similar increases in exchange in the kα11 helix in contact with

the inhibited C-terminus. This suggests a key role of the H1047R mutant is to disrupt

inhibitory contacts between the C-terminus and orient the C-terminus in a productive

conformation for membrane binding. The H1047R and G1049R, mutants also led to

increased activity towards ATP hydrolysis. Therefore, we propose that mutations that

disrupt this inhibitory C-terminal contact (H1047R, G1049R) activate PI3K by two

unique mechanisms: they reorient the WIF motif towards the membrane binding

surface, increasing membrane binding, while also causing the activation loop to adapt a

catalytically competent conformation.

The N1068fs mutant caused no significant differences in ATPase activity

compared to wild-type, but increased membrane binding. A putative mechanism

explaining this is that the 1068fs replaces the terminal Asn, with a set of positive and

hydrophobic residues (KLKR), which all would contribute enhanced membrane binding.

So, while the 1068fs mutant does not reorient the membrane binding interface, it likely

interacts more extensively, increasing membrane residency time, and increasing PIP$_3$

production. The M1043L mutant has a much smaller effect on membrane binding, but

did increase basal ATPase rate. Comparing the structure of WT p110α to H1047R

p110α shows a rotation of the kα11 helix in the mutant, with the M1043 residue rotating

into where the W1051 from the C-terminus is located in the WT structure[17]. We expect

that reorientation of the C-terminus is required for full activity, and therefore we propose

that the enhanced membrane binding of M1043L (and potentially M1043I/V) is driven by

the added steric bulk of the branched chain amino acids, which may more efficiently

reorient the C-terminus upon membrane binding. Further structural studies of the

M1043 mutants on membrane surfaces will be required to fully access the molecular

basis of activation.

Overall, integrating our experimental efforts with the extensive previous

biophysical and biochemical analysis of p110α mutants we can propose a unifying

model for how p110α is inhibited by regulatory subunits, and how it can be activated

both by activating partners and oncogenic mutants (Fig. 6B-D). Activation of

p110α/p85α by bis-phosphorylated receptors and their adaptors leads to breaking of the

inhibitory nSH2 contacts with the p110α subunit. Helical domain mutants (E542K,

E545K) mimic this conformational change (red equilibrium arrows between Fig. 6A-6B).

The removal of the nSH2 partially destabilises the iSH2-C2 and ABD-kinase interfaces,

but in the wild type complex the equilibrium is mainly towards a closed p85-ABD

engaged complex (black arrows). The pYXXM binding surface of the nSH2 exposed in

helical mutants leads to greatly enhanced recruitment to RTKs and their adaptors[54].

Oncogenic mutations that occur at the ABD or iSH2 interfaces in p110α (red equilibrium

arrows between Fig 6A-6C) shifts the equilibrium towards the disengaged state, leading

to increased affinity for membranes. Full membrane recruitment still depends on the

opening of the C-terminus of p110α. In the wild type complex, membrane recruitment

requires additional signalling inputs from Ras GTPases. Oncogenic mutants in the

kinase domain lead in increased membrane binding either through reorientation of the

WIF binding motif and the activation loop (i.e. H1047R, G1049R), or by altering residues

at the membrane interface that can more extensively interact with negatively charged

membranes (i.e. E726K, 1068fs) (red equilibrium arrows in Fig. 6D). Together, this

model can account for the putative mechanism of activation for >98% of all PIK3CA

mutants reported in the COSMIC database, and for why double PIK3CA mutants lead to

increased oncogenicity (Fig. S7).

Extensive efforts have focused on the development of p110α selective inhibitors.

PIK3CA mutant selective inhibitors would likely have major advantages in cancer

treatment as they can evade feedback mechanisms that counteract pharmacological

inhibition of WT *PIK3CA*. Mutant selective inhibitors have been discovered that lead to

selective degradation of E545K and H1047R over WT[55], along with recent reports of

H1047R selective inhibitors. Our data showing very similar conformational changes in

H1047R and G1049R suggest that 1047R/L selective small molecules may also be

useful in targeting G1049R/S. There also could be advantages of generating tool

compounds that activate PI3K activity, with small molecules that disrupt the ABD or p85

interfaces likely acting as activators. Our findings provide a molecular framework for the

future development of the next generation of PI3K modulators as therapeutics.

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Author Contributions

MLJ, HRP, and NH carried out all biochemical analysis in the manuscript. MLJ, HRP,

MP, MR, and JEB, carried out and analyzed all HDX-MS data. MLJ, HRP, and JEB

designed the experiments. All authors contributed to writing and editing.

Conflict of interest statement

J.E.B. reports personal fees from Olema Pharmaceuticals (San Francisco, USA) and

Scorpion Therapeutics (Boston, USA).

Data availability statement

The HDX-MS proteomics data generated in this study have been deposited to the

ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository[56] with the dataset

identifier PXD031080. All data generated or analysed during this study are included in

the source data excel file.

Materials and Methods

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Bacterial and virus strains		
E.coli XL10-GOLD KanR Ultracompetent Cells	Agilent	200317
E.coli DH10EMBacY Competent Cells	Geneva Biotech	DH10EMBacY
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
H2N-ESDGG(pY)MDMSKDESID(pY)VPMLDMKGDIKYADIE-OH	New England Peptide	N/A
Deuterium Oxide 99.9%	Sigma Aldrich	151882-10X1ML
ATP	Sigma	A7699- 1g
sodium deoxycholate	Sigma	D6750

Protease inhibitor cocktail	Sigma	535140
Polyoxyethylene (10) lauryl ether	Sigma	P9769
Phosphatidylserine (Porcine Brain)	Avanti	840032C
Phosphatidylethanolamine (Egg yolk)	Sigma Aldrich	P6386
Cholesterol	Sigma Aldrich	47127-U
Phosphatidylcholine (Egg yolk)	Avanti	840051C
Phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (Porcine Brain)	Avanti	840046
Sphingomyelin (Egg yolk)	Sigma Aldrich	S0756
Dansyl-Phosphatidyl Serine	Avanti	810225C
6-well sticky-side chamber	IBIDI	80608
Polyethanolamine (PEI)	Polysciences	24765
Critical commercial assays		
Transcreener ADP2 FI Assay (1,000 Assay, 384 Well)	BellBrook Labs	3013-1K
Oligonucleotides		
Forward Primer for D915* mutation in p110α-CCTTCATTTTGGGAATTGGAaatCGTCACAATAGTAACATCATGGTGAAAGACG	Sigma Aldrich	oHP006F
Reverse Primer for D915* mutation in p110α-attTCCAATTCCCAAAATGAAGGTAGCTACACAG	Sigma Aldrich	oHP006R
Forward Primer for H1047R* mutation in p110α-CAAATGAATGATGCACgTCATGGTGGCTGGACAACAAAAATGG	Sigma Aldrich	MR81f
Reverse Primer for H1047R mutation in p110α-TGCATCATTCATTTGTTTCATGAAATACTCCAAAGC	Sigma Aldrich	MR81R
Forward Primer for M1043L mutation in p110α-GAGTATTTCATGAAACAAcTGAATGATGCACATCATGGTGGCTGG	Sigma Aldrich	MR82F
Reverse Primer for M1043L mutation in p110α-TTGTTTCATGAAATACTCCAAAGCCTCTTGC	Sigma Aldrich	MR82R
Forward Primer for G1049R* mutation in p110α-ATGATGCACATCATcGTGGCTGGAC	Sigma Aldrich	oHP005F
Reverse Primer for G1049R mutation in p110α-ACgATGATGTGCATCATTCATTTGTTTCATGAAATACTC	Sigma Aldrich	oHP005R
Forward Primer for N1068KLKR mutation in p110α-ATGCATTGAAACTTAAAAGGTGAgcggccgctcgagtctag	Sigma Aldrich	oHP004F
Reverse Primer for N1068KLKR mutation in p110α-CCTTTTAAGTTTCAATGCATGCTGTTTAATTGTGTGGAAGATC	Sigma Aldrich	oHP004R
Forward Primer for ∆C mutation in p110α-GGCgccggtaccATGCCTCCACGACCATCATCAGG	Sigma Aldrich	MR80F
Reverse Primer for ∆C mutation in p110α-agcggccgcTCAATGATGTGCATCATTCATTTGTTTCATGAAATAC	Sigma Aldrich	MR86R
Forward Primer for p110α core mutation in p110α-GGGCgccggtaccAACCGTGAAGAAAAGATCCTCAATCGAG	Sigma Aldrich	oHP008F
Reverse Primer for p110α core mutation in p110α-GGATCTTTTCTTCACGGTTggtaccggcGCCCTGAAAATAC	Sigma Aldrich	oHP008R
Recombinant DNA		

Human p110α (1-1068) in pACEBac1 vector	Dornan G L et al., 2020[11]	GD102
p110α H1047R in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	MR98
p110α M1043L in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	MR100
p110α G1049R in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP15
p110α with N1068KLKR in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP14
p110α ΔCter (1-1048) in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	MR106
p110α core (106-1068) in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP31
Human p85α (1-724)	Dornan G L et al., 2020[11]	EX20
p110α D915N (1-1068) in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP16
p110α D915N and H1047R in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP19
p110α D915 and M1043L in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP25
p110α D915 and G1049R in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP27
p110α D915 and N1068KLKR in pACEBac1 vector	This paper	HP26
Free p85α in pFastBac 1	This paper	AS01
Software and algorithms		
HDExaminer	Sierra Analytics	http://massspec.com/hdexaminer
GraphPad Prism 7	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com
Adobe Illustrator	Adobe	https://www.adobe.com/products/illustrator.html
COSMIC: Catalogue Of Somatic Mutations In Cancer	Sanger;	https://cancer.sanger.ac.uk/cosmic
PyMOL	Schroedinger	http://pymol.org
Other		
Sf9 insect cells for expression	Expression Systems	94-001S

Plasmid Generation

Genes of interest were inserted into the pFastBac1 vector to allow baculovirus

expression in *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf9) cells. The plasmids containing p110 and free

p85α isoforms also expressed N-terminal to the protein a 10X histidine tag, followed by

a 2X Strep tag, followed by a Tobacco Etch Virus protease cleavage site. Single

substitution mutations (D915N, H1047R, M1043L, G1049R and N1068fs) and p110

truncations (p110α core and ΔC) were generated using site-directed mutagenesis

according to published commercial protocols (QuickChange Site-Directed Mutagenesis,

Novagen). DNA oligonucleotides spanning the desired region and either containing the

altered nucleotides (single substitutions) or lacking the truncated region were ordered

(Sigma). PCR reactions were performed on the WT p85α, and PCR purified (Q5 High-

Fidelity 2X MasterMix, New England Biosciences #M0492L; QiaQuick PCR Purification

Kit, Qiagen #28104). Single colonies were grown overnight and purified using QIAprep

Spin Miniprep Kit (Qiagen #27104). Plasmid identity was confirmed by sanger

sequencing (Eurofins Genomics).

Virus Generation and Amplification

The plasmids harbouring p110α WT and other variants and p85α were

transformed into DH10MultiBac cells (MultiBac, Geneva Biotech) containing the

baculovirus viral genome (bacmid) and a helper plasmid expressing transposase to

transpose the expression cassette harbouring the gene of interest into the baculovirus

genome. Bacmids with successful incorporation of the expression cassette of pFastBac/

pACEBac1 into the viral genome was identified by blue-white screening and were

purified from a single white colony using a standard isopropanol-ethanol extraction

method. Briefly, colonies were grown overnight (~16 hours) in 3-5 mL 2xYT (BioBasic

#SD7019). Cells were pelleted by centrifugation and the pellet was resuspended in 225

µL P1 Buffer (Qiagen MiniPrep Kit, #27106), chemically lysed by the addition of 225 µL

Buffer P2, and the lysis reaction was neutralized by addition of 300 µL Buffer N3.

Following centrifugation at 21130 rcf and 4°C (Rotor #5424 R), the supernatant was

separated and mixed with 600 µL isopropanol to precipitate the DNA out of solution.

Further centrifugation at the same temperature and speed pelleted the Bacmid DNA,

which was then washed with 500 µL 70% Ethanol three times. The Bacmid DNA pellet

was then dried for 1 minute and re-suspended in 50 µL Buffer EB.

Purified bacmid was then transfected into Sf9 cells. 2 mL of Sf9 cells between

$0.3-0.5X10^6$ cells/mL were aliquoted into the wells of a 6-well plate and allowed to

attach, creating a monolayer of cells at ~ 70-80% confluency. Transfection reactions

were prepared by the addition of 2-10 ug of bacmid DNA to 100 µl 1xPBS and 12 µL

polyethyleneimine (PEI) at 1 mg/mL (Polyethyleneimine "Max" MW 40.000,

Polysciences #24765, USA) to 100 µL 1xPBS. The bacmid-PBS and the PEI-PBS

solutions were mixed, and the reaction occurred for 20-30 minutes before addition drop-

by-drop to an Sf9 monolayer containing well. Transfections were allowed to proceed for

5-7 days before harvesting virus containing supernatant as a PI viral stock.

Viral stocks were amplified by adding P1 viral stock to suspension Sf9 cells

between 1-2x106 cells/mL at a 1/100 volume ratio. This amplification produces a P2

stage viral stock that can be used in final protein expression. The amplification

proceeded for 4-5 days before harvesting, with cell shaking at 120 RPM in a 27°C

shaker (New Brunswick). Harvesting of P2 viral stocks was carried out by centrifuging

cell suspensions in 50 mL Falcon tubes at 2281 RCF (Beckman GS-15), collecting the

supernatant in a fresh sterile tube, and adding 5-10% inactivated foetal bovine serum

(FBS; VWR Canada #97068-085).

Expression and purification of recombinant proteins

All PI3K constructs were purified by expressing the catalytic subunit and the

regulatory subunit using the pFASTBAC/ pACEBac1 expression system in SF9 cells.

After expressing the cells at 27°C (42 hours for Kinase active variants and 55 hours for

Kinase dead), the cells were harvested at 2800 rpm and 4°C using Eppendorf

Centrifuge 5810R and the cells were flash frozen using liquid nitrogen and stored in -

80C. The proteins were purified by a series of affinity chromatography techniques that

includes Nickel affinity, Streptavidin and Q column.

The frozen pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer containing 20 mM Tris pH 8,

10 mM Imidazole, 100 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol [v/v], 2 mM βME, protease inhibitor

[Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set III, Sigma]) and sonicated for 2 min (15 s on, 15 s off,

level 4.0, Misonix sonicator 3000). Triton-X was added to the lysate at a final

concentration of 0.1% and then clarified by spinning at 14,000 rpm for 45 min (Beckman

Coulter JA-20 rotor). The supernatant was loaded onto a 5 ml crude Ni-NTA column

(GE healthcare) equilibrated in NiNTA A buffer containing 20 mM Tris pH 8, 100 mM

NaCl, 10 mM Imidazole and 5% glycerol [v/v]. The column was washed using high salt

buffer containing 20 mM Tris, 1 M NaCl, 10 mM Imidazole, 5% Glycerol [v/v] followed by

NiNTA buffer wash (20 mM Tris pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 21 mM Imidazole and 5%

Glycerol). The protein was eluted using 100% NiNTA B buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8, 100

mM NaCl, 200 mM Imidazole and 5% Glycerol). The elute from the nickel column was

loaded onto Streptavidin column (GE healthcare) and subjected to buffer wash using

Hep A buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 5% Glycerol and 0.5 mM tris(2-

carboxyethyl) phosphine [TCEP]). The column was incubated on ice for 3 hours in the

presence of TEV protease and then eluted by a wash with HEP A buffer. The eluent

was loaded onto Q column equilibrated with HEP A buffer. The column was washed

with HEP A buffer to remove TEV protease and the final PI3K was eluted by passing

Hep B elution buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8, 325mM NaCl, 5% glycerol [v/v] and 0.5 mM

TCEP). The protein was exchanged to the final buffer containing 20 mM HEPES pH 7.5,

100 mM NaCl, 10 % Glycerol [v/v] and 0.5 mM TCEP using a desalting column. The

protein was concentrated to 1 mg/ml using a 50,000 MWCO Amicon Concentrator

(Millipore), flash frozen and stored at -80°C.

For HDX experiments involving WT, p110α core, H1047R, M1043L, ΔCter and

free p85α were further subjected to gel filtration using Superdex^{TM} 200 10/300 GL

Increase from GE healthcare. After gel filtration, the protein was concentrated,

aliquoted, frozen, and stored at –80°C.

Lipid Vesicle Preparation

To measure membrane recruitment using Protein-Lipid FRET two sets of lipid

vesicles were prepared: PE/PS/PIP$_2$ containing 5 % brain PIP$_2$, 65% egg yolk PE, 25 %

brain PS and 10% Dansyl-PS (Avanti, #810225C) and PM mimic consisting of 5% brain

PIP$_2$, 20% brain PS, 10% Dansyl-PS, 45% egg yolk PE, 15% egg yolk

phosphatidylcholine (PC) (Avanti #840051C), 10% cholesterol (Sigma Aldrich, #47127-

U), and 5% egg yolk sphingomyelin (Sigma Aldrich, #S0756). To generate vesicles the

lipid mixtures were combined in organic solvent. The mixture was then evaporated

using a stream of argon gas followed by desiccation under vacuum for 45 minutes. The

lipids were resuspended in a lipid buffer (25 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl, 10%

Glycerol [v/v]) and the solution was subjected to sonication for 15 mins. The vesicles

were subjected to five freeze thaw cycles and extruded 11 times through a 100 nm filter

(T and T Scientific: TT-002–0010). The extruded vesicles were sonicated again for 5

min, aliquoted and stored at –80°C.

Protein-Lipid FRET Assay

Protein-lipid FRET experiments were carried out either at a saturating protein

concentration (Fig. 4C, also Fig S4E and F) or as a dose response with PI3K (Fig. S3B).

Protein lipid FRET assays with saturating PI3K were initiated by mixing 2.5 µL PI3K

(final concentration of 1 µM) with 2.5 µL of pY peptide (final concentration of 1 µM) for

15 mins at 20°C. 5 µL of lipid vesicles (either PIP_2/PS/PE or PM mimic vesicles, both at

final conc. 16.65 µg/mL) was added to the protein-pY mixture and were incubated for 15

mins at 20°C. Dose experiment was carried out exactly the same, except PI3K amount

varied from 0.015 µM to 1 µM. The plate was then read using a SpectraMax M5 plate

reader using a 280-nm excitation filter with 350-nm and 520- nm emission filters to

measure Trp and Dansyl-PS FRET emissions, respectively. The FRET signal shown in

the figure has I-I_o along the Y axis where I is the intensity of 520 with protein and Io is

the intensity of lipid alone.

ATPase assay

All ATPase assays used the Transcreener ADP2 Fluorescence Intensity (FI)

assay (Bellbrook labs) which measures formation of ADP. 2 µL of a kinase solution

(final concentration 200nM-0.186nM) at 2X final concentration was mixed with 2 µL

substrate solution containing ATP, and the reaction was allowed to proceed for 60 min

at 37°C. The reaction was stopped with 4 µL of 2X stop and detect solution containing

EDTA (chelates Mg^{2+}, stopping kinase activity) along with 8 nM ADP Alexa Fluor 594

Tracer and 93.7 µg/mL ADP2 Antibody IRDye QC-1, and was allowed to incubate for 60

minutes. The fluorescence intensity was measured using a SpectraMax M5 plate reader

at excitation 590 nm and emission 620 nm. This data was normalised against a 0–100%

ADP window made using conditions containing a final concentration of 100 µM ATP or

ADP. % ATP turnover was interpolated from an ATP standard curve obtained from

performing the assay on 100 µM (total) ATP/ADP mixtures with increasing

concentrations of ADP.

HDX-MS analysis: Sample Preparation

HDX-MS experiments for all conditions were conducted as follows: reactions

comparing full-length p110α/p85α and p110α core were conducted in 13.5-µl reaction

volumes with a final PI3K amount of 10 pmol. Prior to HD exchange, 3.5 µl of either

protein was incubated with 3.5 µl of PIP_2/PS/PE lipid at 1 mg/ml or lipid buffer for 2

minutes at room temperature. To initiate HD exchange, a mixture of either 6.5 µl of the

same lipid at 1 mg/ml or lipid buffer and 36.5 µl of D_2O buffer [20 mM HEPES (pH 7.5),

100 mM NaCl, 94.3% D_2O (v/v)] was added to the protein-lipid/buffer mix (final D_2O

concentration of 69%). Exchange was carried out for 3, 30, and 300s at 20°C.

HDX reactions comparing full-length p110α/p85α WT against M1043L, H1047R

and ΔC were conducted in 20µl reaction volumes with a final PI3K amount of 9 pmol.

Prior to HD exchange, 3 µl of protein was incubated with 1µl of 50 µM pY peptide or

protein buffer and allowed to incubate for 15 minutes on ice. Exchange was initiated by

the addition of 16 µl of D_2O buffer to the protein +/- pY mixture (final D_2O concentration

of 75%). Exchange was carried out for 3, 30, 300, and 3000s at 20°C and 0.3s (3s on

ice).

HDX reactions comparing full-length p110α/p85α WT against G1049R were

conducted in 20μl reaction volumes with a final PI3K amount of 15 pmol. HD exchange

was initiated by the addition of 16 μl of D_2O buffer to 4 μl of protein (final D_2O

concentration of 75%). The reaction proceeded for 3, 30, 300, and 3000s at 20°C.

HDX reactions comparing full-length p110α/p85α WT against N1068fs were

conducted in 20μl reaction volumes with a final PI3K amount of 11 pmol. HD exchange

was initiated by the addition of 17.2 μl of D_2O buffer to 2.8 μl of protein (final D_2O

concentration of 81%). The reaction proceeded for 3, 30, 300, and 3000s at 20°C.

HDX reactions comparing full-length p110α/p85α WT kinase active vs kinase

dead were conducted in 50 μl reaction volumes with a final PI3K amount of 10 pmol.

Prior to HD exchange, 4 μl of either protein was incubated with 10 μl of PIP_2/PS/PE lipid

at 1 mg/ml or lipid buffer for 2 minutes at 20°C. HD exchange was initiated by the

addition of 36 μl of D_2O buffer (final D_2O concentration of 69%). The reaction proceeded

for 3, 30, and 300s at 20°C. All conditions and timepoints were generated in

independent triplicate. All exchange reactions were terminated by the addition of ice-

cold quench buffer to give a final concentration 0.6 M guanidine-HCl and 0.9% formic

acid. Samples were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen immediately after quenching and

stored at –80°C until injected onto the ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC)

system for proteolytic cleavage, peptide separation, and injection onto a QTOF for mass

analysis, described below.

HDX-MS analysis: Protein digestion and tandem MS data collection

Protein samples were rapidly thawed and injected onto an integrated fluidics

system containing an HDx-3 PAL liquid handling robot and climate-controlled (2°C)

chromatography system (LEAP Technologies), a Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC system,

and an Impact HD QTOF mass spectrometer (Bruker). The protein was run over one

immobilized pepsin column (Trajan; ProDx protease column, 2.1 mm x 30 mm

PDX.PP01-F32) at 200 µl/min for 3 min at 10°C. The resulting peptides were collected

and desalted on a C18 trap column [Acquity UPLC BEH C18 1.7 mm column (2.1 x 5

mm); Waters 186003975]. The trap was subsequently eluted in line with an ACQUITY

1.7 µm particle, 100 x 1 mm^2 C18 UPLC column (Waters 186002352), using a gradient

of 3-35% B (buffer A, 0.1% formic acid; buffer B, 100% acetonitrile) over 11 min

immediately followed by a gradient of 35-80% B over 5 minutes. MS experiments

acquired over a mass range from 150 to 2200 mass/charge ratio (m/z) using an

electrospray ionization source operated at a temperature of 200°C and a spray voltage

of 4.5 kV.

HDX-MS analysis: Peptide identification

Peptides were identified from the nondeuterated samples of p110α/p85α

complex for WT and other mutants using data-dependent acquisition following tandem

MS (MS/MS) experiments (0.5-s precursor scan from 150 to 2000 m/z: 12 0.25s

fragment scans from 150 to 2000 m/z). MS/MS datasets were analyzed using PEAKS7

(PEAKS), and peptide identification was carried out by using a false discovery–based

approach, with a threshold set to 1% using a database of purified proteins and known

contaminants found in SF9 cells[57]. The search parameters were set with a precursor

tolerance of 20 parts per million, fragment mass error 0.02 Da, and charge states from 1

to 8.

HDX-MS analysis: Mass analysis of peptide centroids and measurement of deuterium

incorporation

HD-Examiner Software (Sierra Analytics) was used to automatically calculate the

level of deuterium incorporation into each peptide. All peptides were manually inspected

for correct charge state, correct retention time, and appropriate selection of isotopic

distribution. Deuteration levels were calculated using the centroid of the experimental

isotope clusters. HDX-MS results are presented with no correction for back exchange

shown in the Source data, with the only correction being applied correcting for the

deuterium oxide percentage of the buffer used in the exchange (69% for p110α core

experiments, 69% for WT vs M1043L, H1047R and ΔC, 75% for WT vs G1049R, 81%

for WT vs N1068fs and 69% for WT kinase active vs kinase dead). Attempts to generate

a fully deuterated class I PI3K sample were unsuccessful, which is common for large

macromolecular complexes. Therefore, all deuterium exchange values are relative.

Differences in exchange in a peptide were considered significant if they met all

three of the following criteria: ≥5% change in exchange, ≥0.4 Da difference in exchange,

and a P-value of <0.01 using a two-tailed Student's t test. The raw HDX data are shown

in two different formats.

The raw data for all analysed peptides is available in the source data. The

differences in deuterium exchange are visualised in different ways. To allow for

visualization of differences across conditions, we used number of deuteron difference

(#D) plots (Figs. 2C, 3D, 5A-E, S3C-E, S4A+C, S5A, S6D-F). These plots show the total

difference in deuterium incorporation over the entire HDX time course, with each point

indicating a single peptide. These graphs are calculated by summing the differences at

every time point for each peptide and propagating the error. For a selection of peptides,

we are showing the %D incorporation over a time course, which allows for comparison

of multiple conditions at the same time for a given region (Figs. 2D+3E, S3F, S4B+D,

S5B+C, S6G). Samples were only compared when they were set at the same time and

were never compared to experiments completed with a different final D_2O level. The

data analysis statistics for all HDX-MS experiments are in table S1 according to

published guidelines. The HDX-MS proteomics data generated in this study have been

deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository[56] with

the dataset identifier PXD031080.

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Figures and figure legends

Figure 1. Structure of p110α/p85α and location of *PIK3CA* oncogenic mutations

A. Domain schematic of both p110α/p85α, with the catalytic core, activation loop (orange), regulatory motif (green), and C-terminus (magenta) of p110α annotated. Same color scheme has been used to map these features on the structures below.

B. Oncogenic mutations in p110α mapped on the structure of WT p110α/p85α (PDB: 4OVU[39]). The frequency of oncogenic mutations from the COSMIC database[44] as described in panel **C** is colored according to the legend with any mutation with a frequency >50 indicated as a sphere. Other features are colored according to the domain schematic in panel A. The p85 subunit is shown as a transparent blue surface. Cartoons of the two views of PI3K highlighting these features are shown to the right of each structural model. These same cartoon views are used to map all further HDX-MS data.

C. Frequency of mutations across the primary sequence of *PIK3CA* from the **C**atalog **o**f **S**omatic **M**utations **i**n **C**ancer (COSMIC) database (data from January 2022)[44].

D. C-terminus in H1047R adopts a unique confirmation compared to WT (PDB: 3HHM)[17]. Features are colored the same as in panel B.

E. Above: The sequence of the C-terminus is shown, with mutants colored blue, and the membrane binding WIF motif in bold[58]. The sequence of a frameshift mutant (N1068KLKR)[30] is also shown. Below: Orientation of the C-terminus in the WT (PDB:4OVU) and H1047R (PDB:3HHM) crystal structures. The relative positioning of additional oncogenic mutants (M1043I/L, N1044K, G1049R/S) are indicated. The reorientation of the C-terminus (colored in magenta) that occurs upon H1047R mutation is indicated by the red arrow.

Figure 2. Conformational changes in p110α core compared to full length p110α-p85α, and comparison to changes upon pY/Ras membrane recruitment

A. Peptides in p110α that showed significant differences in HDX (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01) between the catalytic core and the full-length complex are mapped on the structure of p110α-p85α complex (PDB: 4OVU) according to the legend. The regions of the ABD (pink) and p85 (green) that are missing in the p110α core are shown as a surface. Cartoon models representing the differences between states are shown next to the structures. A more extensive set of peptides are shown in Fig S4.

B. Peptides in p110α that showed significant differences in both p110α and p85α between free (with pY) and membrane-bound (pY, membrane Ras) (data adapted from Siempelkamp et al JBC, 2017[12]) are mapped onto the structure of p110α-p85α (PDB:4OVU) according to the legend.

C. The number of deuteron difference for all peptides analyzed over the entire deuterium exchange time course for p110α core compared to full length p110α- p85α. Peptides colored in red are those that had a significant change (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01). Error bars are S.D. (n=3).

D. Selected p110α peptide in the ABD-RBD linker that showed increases in exchange in p110α core compared to full length p110α-p85α (left), and upon membrane binding of full length PI3K (right, data adapted from Siempelkamp et al JBC, 2017 [12]). Error bars are S.D. (n=3), with smaller than the size of the point. A more extensive set of peptides

comparing the full length p110α-p85α with p110α core are shown in Fig. S4, with the full

list of all peptides and their deuterium incorporation in the source data file.

Fig 3. Enhanced membrane binding of p110α core compared to full length

p110α/p85α, and mapping of the p110α membrane binding interface

A. Cartoon schematic describing the protein-lipid FRET assay, where tryptophan's in

the protein are excited at 280 nm, with emission at 350 nm, which upon membrane

binding can excite the dansyl moiety in dansyl phosphatidylserine lipids, leading to

emission at 520 nm.

B. Protein-lipid FRET measurements of membrane recruitment comparing p110α core

and full-length p110α/p85α complex as well as full-length p110α/p85α complex and

p85a apo under basal and pY activated conditions on PE/PS/PIP$_2$ liposomes containing

5 % brain PIP$_2$, 65% egg yolk PE, 25 % brain PS and 10% Dansyl-PS (error bars are

S.D., n=3). Experiments were carried out with 1 μM pY, 0.5 μM PI3K, and 16.65 μg lipid

vesicles. The values were normalized to WT apo. Two tailed p-values represented by

the symbols as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05; n.s.>0.05.

C. Peptides in p110α core that showed significant differences in HDX (greater than 0.4

Da and 5% difference, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01) upon binding to 5% PIP$_2$/PS/PE

vesicles were mapped onto the catalytic core of p110α (PDB: 3HHM) according to the

legend.

D. The number of deuteron difference for all peptides analyzed over the entire

deuterium exchange time course for p110α core upon binding membranes. Peptides

colored in red are those that had a significant change (greater than 0.4 Da and 5%

difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01). Error bars are S.D. (n=3). A

more complete set of peptides comparing the full length p110α-p85α with p110α core

are shown in Fig S4, with the full list of all peptides and their deuterium incorporation in

the source data file.

E. Selected p110α peptides in the kinase domain that showed decreases in exchange in

the p110α core upon binding membranes.

Fig 4. Biochemical analysis of C-terminal *PIK3CA* mutations and their effect on

membrane binding and ATPase assays

A. Measurement of ATP turnover performed with different p110α constructs in solution.

Experiments were performed with 200 to 0.186 nM PI3K, with 100 µM ATP in the

absence of lipid vesicles.

B. Specific activity values normalized to WT for the ATPase assay performed with

different p110α constructs in solution (error bars are S.D., n=10-12). Experiments were

performed with 19.5 to 0.59 nM PI3K, and 100µM ATP in the absence of lipid vesicles.

Two tailed p-values represented by the symbols are as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05;

n.s.>0.05

C. Protein-Lipid FRET assay performed with different p110α and p85α constructs under

basal and pY activated states on PM mimic liposomes containing 5% PIP_2, 10% Dansyl

PS, 15 % PS, 40% PE, 10% cholesterol, 15% PC and 5% SM. Experiments were

carried out at saturating concentrations of PI3K (0.5-1 µM) and 16.65 µg/ml of lipid

vesicles (error bars are S.D., n=3). Two tailed p-values represented by the symbols are

as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05; n.s.>0.05.

Fig 5. Structural difference between various c-terminal mutants of p110α compared to WT p110α/p85α, and mapping of the p110α membrane binding interface

A-C. HDX comparing p110α/p85α WT vs H1047R (**A**), G1049R (**B**) and ∆Cter (1-1048) (**C**). Significant differences in deuterium exchange are mapped on to the structure of p110α/p85α H1047R according to the legend (PDB: 3HHM (A+B) and 4OVU (C)). The graph of the #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α in each experiment is shown below, with each point representing a single peptide. Peptides colored in red are those that had a significant change in the mutants (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01). Error bars are S.D. (n=3).

D-E. HDX comparing p110α/p85α WT vs M1043L (D) and N1068fs (E). The graph of the #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α in each experiment is shown below, with each point representing a single peptide. For all panels, the HDX-MS data for p85 subunits is shown in Fig S6, along with representative peptides showing significant changes. The full HDX-MS data is available in the source data.

Fig 6. Summary of molecular mechanisms of PI3K inhibition by the ABD and regulatory subunit, how activation occurs for wild-type p110α-p85 (A), and how oncogenic mutations can alter this process (B-D).

A. Proposed mechanism of activation of wild type p110α-p85α. Activation is initiated by nSH2 disengagement through binding pYXXM motifs (pY), followed by ABD-p85

disengagement, followed by membrane binding (which can be promoted through

binding to membrane localised Ras).

B. Activation of p110α-p85α by oncogenic mutants that promote the nSH2

disengagement step of PI3K activation (nSH2-helical hot spot-mutants, E542K, E545K).

See Fig S7 for complete list of mutants.

C. Activation of p110α-p85α by oncogenic mutants that promote the ABD-p85

disengagement step of PI3K activation (ABD, ABD-RBD linker, C2-iSH2 mutants). See

Fig S7 for complete list of mutants.

D. Different molecular mechanisms driving activation of C-terminal mutations in p110α .

The regulatory motif is colored green, with the C-terminus colored red, and the

activation loop in black (inactive) or red (orange). The C-terminus when in its closed

conformation has the membrane binding WIF motif oriented away from the membrane

surface. Membrane binding requires the reorientation of this tail, with the membrane

itself likely involved in this conformational change. Mutations that disrupt this interface

(H1047R, G1049R) are in an open conformation, leading to greatly increased

membrane binding. In the N1068fs mutant there is no change in conformation in

solution, but the added KLKR motif dramatically increases membrane recruitment.

A p110α

B WT p110α / p85α

C

D H1047R p110α / p85α

E

p110α WT   KQ**MN**DA**HHG**GWTTKMD**WIF**HTIKQHALN---
p110α N1068fs KQMNDAHHGGWTTKMD**WIF**HTIKQHAL**KLKR**

A WT vs p110α catalytic core

Helical   RBD   RBD

ABD-RBD-linker

>+10% | +5% to +10% | -5% to +5% in p110α | -5% to +5% in p85α | No Coverage | -5% to -10% | -10% to -20% | >-20%

ABD

p110α catalytic core

nSH2

ABD-RBD Linker

p110α catalytic core

C2   p85 iSH2   Kinase Domain   N- Lobe   p85 iSH2

nSH2

cSH2

p110α p85α

Activation loop   cSH2

ABD

p110α p85α

270°

B WT p110α-p85α-pY +/- Ras/membrane

Ras

nSH2   cSH2

pY peptide ★

ABD-RBD linker

ABD

+ Ras + Membrane

C- Lobe

iSH2   N- Lobe

pY peptide ★

p110α p85α

C p110α full-length vs p110α catalytic core

ABD | RBD | C2 | Helical | N-Lobe | Kinase domain | C-Lobe

#D difference (y-axis: -2 to 8)
Peptide Centroid (x-axis: 0, 250, 500, 750, 1000)

D ABD RBD linker   p110α- 114-119   NREIGF

%D Incorporation (left plot, y-axis 0 to 70)
● p110α Core
● FL PI3K
Time (s): 10⁰, 10¹, 10², 10³

%D Incorporation (right plot)
○ PI3K + pY + Memb
○ PI3K + pY + Ras + Memb
□ PI3K + pY
Time (s): 10⁰, 10¹, 10², 10³

A Protein-lipid FRET

Excitation 280 nm
Emission 520 nm

PI3K

Dansyl-PS containing liposomes

B PI3K membrane Recruitment

Protein-lipid FRET (I-Io) Normalized to WT

WT p110α/p85α   p110α Core

WT p110α/p85α   p85α

○ Basal   ● pY activated state

C p110α catalytic core + Membrane

Helical   RBD

C2   343-354   N-Lobe   720-744   C-Lobe   1056-1068

-5 % to +5%
No Coverage
-5 % to -10%
-10 % to -20%
>-20%

p110α Core   + membrane

D p110α core vs membrane bound

RBD   C2   Helical   N-Lobe   Kinase domain   C-Lobe

#D difference

250   500   750   1000

Peptide Centroid

E

C2
347-355
NIRDIDKIY
%D Incorporation

N-Lobe
735-744
LVEQMRRPDF

Linker
859-872
QIQCKGGLKGALQF

C-term
1056-1068
DWIFHTIKQHALN

3   30   300

■ p110α Core +Mem   ● p110α Core

A WT p110α vs H1047R

No Coverage
-5 % to +5%
+5% to +10%
>+10%

nSH2
p110α
p85α
cSH2

H1047R
p110α–H1047R
p85α

nSH2
1021-1038
962-980
1039-1055
Activation Loop
930-960

Kinase domain
ABD RBD C2 Helical N-Lobe C-Lobe H1047R
WT p110α vs H1047R

#D difference
15
10
5
0
-5
0 250 500 750 1000
Peptide Centroid

B WT p110α vs G1049R

p110α
p85α

G1049R
p110α–G1049R
p85α

1021-1038
962-980
nSH2
Activation Loop
930-960
1039-1055

Kinase domain
ABD RBD C2 Helical N-Lobe C-Lobe G1049R
WT p110α vs G1049R

#D difference
15
10
5
0
-5
0 250 500 750 1000
Peptide Centroid

C WT p110α vs ΔCter

p110α
p85α

p110α–ΔCter
p85α

1021-1038
962-980
nSH2
Activation Loop
930-960

Kinase domain
ABD RBD C2 Helical N-Lobe C-Lobe
WT p110α vs ΔCter

#D difference
15
10
5
0
-5
0 250 500 750 1000
Peptide Centroid

D WT p110α vs M1043L

p110α
p85α

M1043L
p110α–M1043L
p85α

Kinase domain
ABD RBD C2 Helical N-Lobe C-Lobe M1043L
WT p110α vs M1043L

#D difference
15
10
5
0
-5
0 250 500 750 1000
Peptide Centroid

E WT p110α vs N1068fs

p110α
p85α

N1068KLKR
p110α–N1068KLKR
p85α

Kinase domain
ABD RBD C2 Helical N-Lobe C-Lobe N1068KLKR
WT p110α vs N1068fs

#D difference
15
10
5
0
-5
0 250 500 750 1000
Peptide Centroid

A

Basal inhibited state
nSH2 disengaged
ABD-p85 disengaged
p110α membrane-bound

Helical
Regulatory motif
ABD-RBD
Linker
ABD

p110α
nSH2
C2
p85
cSH2

cSH2
RBD
nSH2
Ras

B

Oncogenic mutants at nSH2-helical promote nSH2 disengagement

C

Oncogenic mutants at the ABD, iSH2 interface promote ABD-p85 disengagement

D

	WT p110α	H1047R/G1049R p110α	N1068fs p110α
Solution	WIF Closed	Open WIF	WIF Closed KLKR
Membrane	WIF	WIF	WIF KLKR

Oncogenic mutants at the C-terminus of kinase domain promote membrane recruitment

1 **Supplementary Figures + Tables for**

2 **Oncogenic mutations of *PIK3CA* lead to increased membrane**

3 **recruitment driven by reorientation of the ABD, p85 and C-**

4 **terminus**

8 **Fig S1- List of p110α and p85α constructs used.**

Molecular Weight(s) in kDa
p110α - 124
p110α core - 111
p85α - 85

10   **Fig S2. SDS PAGE gel images of all p110α constructs used in this study**

Fig S3 Comparison between kinase active (KA) and kinase dead (KD) p110α

A. Protein-Lipid FRET assay performed with kinase active and kinase dead p110α constructs under basal

and pY activated states on liposomes containing 5% PIP₂, 10% Dansyl PS, 25 % PS, 65% PE. Experiments

were carried out at saturating concentrations of PI3K concentrations ranging from 0.015 to 1μM, 1μM pY,

and 16.65 μg/ml of lipid vesicles (error bars are S.D., n=3).

(B-D). The #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α and p85α in each experiment, with each

point representing a single peptide, with error as SD (n=3). comparing the following conditions: **C.**

p110α/p85α WT kinase active vs kinase dead. **D.** WT kinase active in solution and membrane. **E.** WT

kinase dead in solution and membrane. Peptides in p110α and p85α that showed significant differences in

22   HDX upon binding to 100 nm extruded 5% PIP_2/PS/PE vesicles are colored in red (greater than 0.4 Da and

23   5% difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test $p<0.01$).

24   **E.** %D graphs for a selection of peptides comparing WT kinase active vs Kinase dead under pY active state

25   and membrane bound state. Full HDX-MS data available in source data.

Fig S4 HDX-MS differences for experiments done with ΔABD

A. The #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α between p110α core and full-length p110α/p85α

complex with error as SD (n=3). Peptides in p110α that showed significant differences in HDX are colored

in red (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01).

B. %D graphs for a selection of peptides comparing p110α core and full-length p110α/p85α with error as

SD (n=3). Full HDX-MS data available in source data.

C. The #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α core upon binding 5% PIP$_2$ membranes with

error as SD (n=3). Peptides in p110α that showed significant differences in HDX are colored in red (greater

than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two tailed t-test p<0.01).

D. %D graphs for a selection of peptides comparing for p110α core in the presence and absence of 5%

PIP$_2$ membranes with error as SD (n=3). Note that the intrinsic exchange rate of different regions explains

some of the differences in H/D exchange seen upon membrane binding. Regions with stable secondary

structure in the absence of membrane are protected primarily at later time point (this is due to membrane

binding further stabilising the secondary structure, see 735-744). The C-terminus undergoes a putative

disorder-order transition (1056-1068), and shows stabilisation at all time points, with rapid exchange in the

absence of membranes. Finally, regions with limited secondary structure (343-354) show protection at only

early timepoints of D_2O exchange.

E. Protein-Lipid FRET testing membrane recruitment of p110α on PIP_2/PS/PE and PM mimic membranes.

FRET assays were performed with saturating concentrations of PI3K (0.5 μM) and 16.65 μg of lipid (error

bars are S.D., n=3). Two tailed p-values represented by the symbols as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05; n.s.>0.05.

F. Protein-Lipid FRET testing membrane recruitment of p85α on PIP_2/PS/PE and PM mimic membranes.

FRET assays were performed with saturating concentrations of p85 (0.5 μM) and 16.65 μg of lipid (error

bars are S.D., n=3). Two tailed p-values represented by the symbols as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05; n.s.>0.05.

Fig S5 Source data for experiments comparing WT and different c-terminal mutants

A. The #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α and p85α in between WT and the indicated

p110α mutant or deletion with error as SD (n=3). Peptides in p110α and p85α that showed significant

differences in HDX are colored in red (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two

tailed t-test p<0.01).

Peptide graphs for HDX differences between WT and mutants showing changes in both p110α and p85α

B-C. % D graphs for a selection of peptides showing significant differences between and WT and mutants.

Full HDX-MS data available in the source data.

76   **D.** Protein-Lipid FRET assay performed with different p110α constructs under basal and pY activated states

77   on PM mimic liposomes (5% PIP$_2$, 10% Dansyl PS, 15 % PS, 40% PE, 10% cholesterol, 15% PC and 5%

78   SM) and 5% PIP$_2$, 10% Dansyl PS, 25 % PS, 65% PE liposomes. Experiments were carried out at saturating

79   concentrations of PI3K (1μM) and 16.65 μg/ml of lipid vesicles (error bars are S.D., n=3). Two tailed p-

80   values represented by the symbols as follows: **<0.001; *<0.05; n.s.>0.05.

Fig S6. Addition of pY leads to increased exposure in the kinase domain.

A-C. HDX-MS comparing basal and pY activated states of (**A**) WT (**B**) H1047R and (**C**) the ΔC-terminus.

The differences with H1047R were mapped onto p110α/iSH2-nSh2 (PDB: 3HHM) and cSH2 (2Y3A). The

differences between WT and ΔCter were mapped onto p110α/iSH2-nSH2 (PDB: 4OVU) and nSH2

(2Y3A)

D-F. The #D difference in deuterium incorporation for p110α and p85α upon pY binding for the indicated

p110α mutant or deletion with error as SD (n=3). Peptides in p110α and p85α that showed significant

differences in HDX are colored in red (greater than 0.4 Da and 5% difference at any timepoint, with a two

tailed t-test p<0.01).

G. %D graphs for a selection of peptides with differences in exchange, with all HDX-MS data available in

the source data. Note that the intrinsic exchange rate of different regions explains some of the differences

in H/D exchange seen upon pY binding. Regions with stable secondary structure in the absence of pY are

protected primarily at later time points (this is due to pY binding further stabilising the secondary structure,

see 1014-1021). Regions with less stable secondary structure show changes throughout the time course (

see peptide 444-475).

Figure S7: Predicted molecular mechanism of activation for various PIK3CA mutations. Mutations

at the nSH2 interface/helical domain lead to disengagement of the nSH2 while the mutations at the

ABD/C2 promote disengagement of ABD-p85 from the catalytic core. Mutations at the kinase domain

promote membrane recruitment either by addition of positively charged residue at the membrane binding

interface (E726K) or alter the regulatory motif.

128 **Table S1- HDX-MS processing details**

Experiment	Comparing WT PI3K and p110α core. HDX Stats table for data shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.		
Data set	WT	p110α core	p110α core + Memb
HDX reaction details	%D$_2$O=69% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=69% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=69% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC
HDX time course (seconds)	3s, 30s, 300s	3s, 30s, 300s	3s, 30s, 300s
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative
Replicates	3	3	3
Protein	p110a		
Number of peptides	125	125	125
Sequence coverage	89.9%	89.9%	89.9%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length= 13.9 Redundancy= 1.8	Length= 13.9 Redundancy= 1.8	Length= 13.9 Redundancy= 1.8
Repeatability	Average StDev= 0.6%	Average StDev=0.4%	Average StDev=0.6%

Experiment	Comparing basal PI3K WT vs mutants (H1047R, M1043L and Delta C) and in the presence of pY with H1047R and Delta C. HDX Stats table for data shown in Figure 5A, Figure 5C, Figure 5D and Figure S7						
Data set	WT	WT+pY	H1047R	H1047R + pY	M1043L	Delta C	Delta C + pY
HDX reaction details	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=75% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC
HDX time course (seconds)	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s at 18ºC 3s at 0 ºC
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative	No correction deuterium levels are relative
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Protein							
Number peptides	171	171	170	170	169	164	164
Sequence coverage	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 2.1
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.5%
Protein							
Number peptides	117	117	117	117	117	117	117
Sequence coverage	90.3%	90.3%	90.3%	90.3%	90.3%	90.3%	90.3%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16.3 Redundancy= 2.6
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.5%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.6%

Experiment	Comparing Kinase Active PI3K and G1049R PI3K. HDX Stats table for data shown in Figure 5B and Figure 5F	
Data set	WT	G1049R
HDX reaction details	%D$_2$O=76% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=76% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC
HDX time course (seconds)	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s
HDX controls	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative
Replicates	3	3
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Protein	p110a	
Number of peptides	169	169
Sequence coverage	95.2%	95.2%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=13.7 Redundancy=2.1	Length=13.7 Redundancy=2.1
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.5%
Protein	p85	
Number of peptides	114	114
Sequence coverage	89%	89%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=16.4 Redundancy=2.5	Length=16.4 Redundancy=2.5
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.5%

Experiment	Comparing Kinase Active PI3K and Frameshift. HDX Stats table for data shown in Figure 5E	
Data set	WT	Frameshift
HDX reaction details	%D$_2$O=81% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=81% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC
HDX time course (seconds)	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s	3s, 30s, 300s, 3000s
HDX controls	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative
Replicates	3	3
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Protein	p110a	
Number of peptides	141	139
Sequence coverage	84.7%	84.7%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 1.6	Length= 13.7 Redundancy= 1.6
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.7%
Protein	p85	
Number of peptides	180	180
Sequence coverage	79%	79%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length= 16 Redundancy= 2.6	Length= 16 Redundancy= 2.6
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.6%

Experiment	Comparing Kinase Active PI3K and Kinase Dead (KD) PI3K. HDX Stats table for data shown in Supplemental Figure 3			
Data set	WT	WT+memb	KD	KD + Memb
HDX reaction details	%D$_2$O=72% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=72% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=72% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC	%D$_2$O=72% pH$_{(read)}$=7.5 Temp=18ºC
HDX time course (seconds)	3s, 300s	3s, 300s	3s, 300s	3s, 300s
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative	No correction, deuterium levels are relative
Replicates	3	3	3	3
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.4 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Protein	p110a			
Number of peptides	133	133	133	133
Sequence coverage	84.9%	84.9%	84.9%	84.9%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=13.1 Redundancy=1.5	Length=13.1 Redundancy=1.5	Length=13.1 Redundancy=1.5	Length=13.1 Redundancy=1.5
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.7	Average StDev=0.7	Average StDev=1.1%	Average StDev=1.3%
Protein	p85			
Number of peptides	81	81	81	81
Sequence coverage	71.4%	71.4%	71.4%	71.4%
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=15.1 Redundancy=1.6	Length=15.1 Redundancy=1.6	Length=15.1 Redundancy=1.6	Length=15.1 Redundancy=1.6
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.7	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=1.4%	Average StDev=1%