

Subject Section

KinasepKipred: A Predictive Model for Estimating Ligand-Kinase Inhibitor Constant (pK_i)

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Associate Editor: XXXXXXXX

Received on XXXXX; revised on XXXXX; accepted on XXXXX

Abstract

Summary: Kinases are one of the most important classes of drug targets for therapeutic use. Algorithms that can accurately predict the drug-kinase inhibitor constant (pK_i) of kinases can considerably accelerate the drug discovery process. In this study, we have developed computational models, leveraging machine learning techniques, to predict ligand-kinase (pK_i) values. Kinase-ligand inhibitor constant (K_i) data was retrieved from Drug Target Commons (DTC) and Metz databases. Machine learning models were developed based on structural and physicochemical features of the protein and, topological pharmacophore atomic triplets fingerprints of the ligands. Three machine learning models [random forest (RF), extreme gradient boosting (XGBoost) and artificial neural network (ANN)] were tested for model development. RF model was finally selected based on the evaluation metrics on test datasets and used for web implementation.

Availability: GitHub: <https://github.com/sirimullalab/KinasepKipred>, Docker: [sirimullalab/kinasepkipred](https://github.com/sirimullalab/kinasepkipred)

Implementation: <https://drugdiscovery.utep.edu/pki>

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Supplementary information: Supplementary data are available *Bioinformatics* online.

1 Introduction

Protein kinases play important roles in a wide range of diseases such as cardiovascular disorders, inflammatory diseases, gastrointestinal stromal tumors and cancer, and can serve as drug targets for therapeutic use (Fabbro (2015)). Kinase inhibitors that inhibit the activity of deregulated protein kinases form the largest class of new drugs approved for cancer treatment. The interaction is usually measured as binding affinity values in terms of dissociation constant (K_d), inhibition constant (K_i) and half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}). We have developed a predictive model to estimate kinase-ligand pK_i values. In this paper, we have used only the data corresponding to (K_i) values for our dataset. Algorithms that predict drug-target associations (Yamanishi *et al.* (2008))(Li and Lai (2007)) and binding affinities were previously published by other researchers (Pahikkala *et al.* (2014))(He *et al.* (2017))(Öztürk *et al.* (2018))(Kundu *et al.* (2018)). However, to our best knowledge there are no algorithms that are specific to kinase K_i predictions.

2 Methods

2.1 Datasets

Kinase-drug K_i data was obtained from two publicly available databases (Tang *et al.* (2018); Metz *et al.* (2011)). Drug Target Interaction (DTI) dataset from the Drug Target Commons (DTC) by Tang *et al.* (Tang *et al.* (2018)) was used for the model development and initial testing of the models. Since we were focused only on kinases, only DTI pairs of 118 kinases and 5,983 compounds with K_i values were used. Thus, our final data set contained 67,894 instances. All K_i values were converted into molar units and then recorded as the negative decadic logarithm of them. Data obtained from Metz *et al.* (Metz *et al.* (2011)) was used as the external dataset for evaluating our models. We filtered out the Metz data to remove all the overlapped data with DTC. The external dataset contained 148 kinases with 240 compounds contributing to unique 17,258 DTI pairs (with K_i values) which were not used in our training and test data.

2.2 Molecular features

Protein features: Protein features were generated using the Python-based tool named propy (Cao *et al.* (2013)). Features were sequence derived structural and physicochemical features from the amino acid sequence.

Ligand features: Topological pharmacophore atomic triplets fingerprints (TPATFP) features were generated for ligands using Perl scripts from the MayaChemTools (Sud (2016)). More detailed explanation of protein and ligand features are provided in the supporting information.

2.3 Model development

Models were developed mainly based on the grid search method with 5-fold cross validation. They were based on the Scikit-Learn machine learning library for Python (Pedregosa *et al.* (2011)). We used the 25% of data for the test set and 75% of the data for the training set. Three different machine learning models (random forest, extreme gradient boosting, and artificial neural network) were developed and we compared their performances using several evaluation metrics. More detailed explanation of these three models are available in the supporting information. We also compared grid search vs random search (Bergstra and Bengio (2012)) for our random forest model to estimate the efficiency of each method.

3 Results

The developed models were evaluated using several metrics such as root-mean-square-error (RMSE), Pearson correlation coefficient (R), Spearman correlation coefficient (ρ), concordance index (Con. Index), and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC-ROC). The table 1,2 and 3 show the scores obtained for the test and Metz data set (external test dataset) using three models. Among three different models, random

Table 1. Performance of RF model on the test and Metz datasets

Metrics	Random Forest	
	Test dataset (95%)	Metz dataset (95%)
R	0.887 (0.881, 0.893)	0.769 (0.759, 0.779)
ρ	0.846 (0.840, 0.853)	0.669 (0.659, 0.679)
RMSE	0.475 (0.465, 0.486)	0.504 (0.495, 0.513)
Con. Index	0.854 (0.851, 0.858)	0.749 (0.744, 0.755)
AUC	0.957 (0.954, 0.960)	0.938 (0.930, 0.946)

Table 2. Performance of XGBoost on the test and Metz datasets

Metrics	XGBoost	
	Test dataset (95%)	Metz dataset (95%)
R	0.862 (0.855, 0.868)	0.667 (0.656, 0.679)
ρ	0.795 (0.788, 0.802)	0.574(0.563, 0.585)
RMSE	0.522 (0.512, 0.533)	0.582 (0.574, 0.591)
Con. Index	0.805 (0.801, 0.810)	0.703 (0.698, 0.709)
AUC	0.946 (0.943, 0.950)	0.922 (0.913, 0.931)

Table 3. Performance of ANN on the test and Metz datasets

Metrics	Artificial neural network	
	Test dataset (95%)	Metz dataset (95%)
R	0.798 (0.794, 0.803)	0.60 (0.592, 0.608)
ρ	0.716 (0.710, 0.722)	0.498 (0.489, 0.507)
RMSE	0.631 (0.623, 0.639)	0.619 (0.612, 0.627)
Con. Index	0.779 (0.774, 0.784)	0.658 (0.651, 0.665)
AUC	0.933 (0.926, 0.940)	0.887 (0.880, 0.894)

forest was found performing best with R 0.887, ρ 0.846, RMSE 0.475, Con.

Index 0.854, and AUC 0.957 for the test data set and 0.769, 0.669, 0.503, 0.749, and 0.938 respective scores for the external data set. More details about the results and a comparative study can be found in the supporting information.

4 Web implementation and Code Availability

The model is available on a webportal at <https://drugdiscovery.utep.edu/pki/>. The web interface takes SMILES patterns and protein sequences as inputs, and provides the predicted results. Additionally, the model, data and results are available on github at github.com/sirimullalab/KinasePKpred. A docker image is also available via docker hub at [sirimullalab/kinasepkpred](https://hub.docker.com/r/sirimullalab/kinasepkpred)

Acknowledgements

We thank Drs. Mahesh Narayan, Amy Wagler, and Gabriel A. Frietze at UTEP for helpful discussions and Dr. Michael Scott Long for reading. We thank the High- Performance Computing Center at UTEP for assistance in using the Chanti cluster and the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The UT Austin for providing HPC resources that have contributed to the research results reported within this paper.

Funding

G.K was supported by the UTEP Computational Science Program. M.H and resources were supported by Dr. Sirimulla’s startup fund from the UTEP School of Pharmacy..

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